

Secret 2/64/78-PM



फाईल सं.  
File No.....  
खण्ड  
Volume

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

VN  
301-07  
POLITICAL SECTION अनुभाग

Section

टिप्पणियां/पत्राचार

NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

..... को सूचीकृत की गई  
Indexed on

आधार.....  
Initials

अभिवेद क/ब  
Record A/B

अभिवेद न..... में नष्ट गए  
Record C Destroyed in

नोट किया जाए  
नोट न किया जाए अनुभागीया नोट बुक

To be noted  
Not to be noted in Sectional Note Book

अनु. व./अधीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर.....  
Initials of S.O./Supdt.

अधिक के हस्ताक्षर.....  
Initials of Clerk

विषय  
SUBJECT

N.S.C. Bose

CONTENTS

NOTES CORP.	From	S. Nos.	Page	To
			P-1-12	
			S-1-104	

पिछले हवाले  
Previous References

बाद के हवाले  
Later References

Keep  
Ansver  
27/4/15



The case regarding the demand for a fresh inquiry into the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been examined in detail.

Two Committees have already gone into the whole question. One was headed by Maj. Gen. Shah Nawaz Khan whose credentials and loyalty to Netaji can hardly be questioned. The Committee did examine Maj. Gen. Habibullah who admittedly accompanied Netaji on his fateful journey and was with him when the air-crash took place. His testimony cannot be set aside lightly. There can be no doubt about his loyalty to Netaji. There may be an attempt on his part to get some glory for himself and also to attribute to Netaji the statement about which there is some contradictory evidence. He might be trying to capitalise over the situation but most unlikely to accept the fact of death if it was not a death. The statement of 4 survivors of the crash particularly where it is unanimous cannot also be discarded. Mere contradictions in the testimony of witnesses cannot be held to establish a positive evidence. In other words contradictions cannot be substitutes for positive evidence of survival.

It is significant that in the case of this Committee at the stage at which propositions were considered by the Committee there was unanimity about the death of Netaji. It is only subsequently that his brother, Suresh Chandra Bose disagreed with the finding and submitted a dissenting report. Thus what was in fact unanimous decision became only a majority decision at the time of report. This majority report was accepted by the Government. This was 21 years ago.

The controversy, however, was kept on and it assumed proportions to the extent that Government was compelled to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to go into the entire matter in July 1970. It was one-man inquiry held by Shri G D. Khosla, Rtd. Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court. After an extensive inquiry including visits to the relevant places and examining 224 witnesses of whom 100 were examined abroad and scrutinising a large number of files and documents the Commission submitted its Report on the 30th June, 1974 and confirmed the finding of Gen. Shah Nawaz's Committee. The main witnesses who testified the fact of death of Netaji were also the witnesses in this inquiry except that Maj. Gen. Habibullah <sup>Rehman</sup> could not be present to give evidence since he was in Pakistan. It may be added that there were allegations against him that he had participated on Pakistan side during 1947-48 aggression of Jammu & Kashmir. This may account for his inability to be present along with the developments of 1971. The fact remains, however, that the inquiry was thorough and the mere fact that again there were discrepancies and contradictions in the testimony/witnesses cannot suffice to set aside the findings which were accepted by Government after a very careful consideration.

Shri Samar Guha still maintains that these two inquiry committees have not been able to get at the real truth. The patest pieces of evidence which he cites are:

1. The official documents which have been published;
2. Lord Wavell's Journal
3. S.E. Asia and British Govt. Intelligence Reports.

I was at that time Deputy Secretary in the Home Department and can testify to the fact that there was reluctance on the part of British officialdom in India and also His Majesty's Government in White Hall to pay full credence to the Japanese report. This was precisely for the reason for which it is now suggested as to why the Japanese put out the report of his death. There is no doubt that the British Government and the Govt. of India were very keen on capturing Netaji alive if they could and thought that because of services by him, the Japanese were keen on keeping up the pretence that he was dead. This is why there are references to a conditional approach to the Japanese broadcast and the news of his death. This was coupled with the general wishful thinking in India that Netaji had escaped and would come to India only. This belief, however, does not figure after the initial few months. So far as intelligence reports are concerned, it is well-known that not ~~so~~<sup>un</sup>-often intelligence reports display the trend which the author intends to believe in. Consequently, the intelligence reports at the time did keep in reserve the possibility that Netaji may survive and become available.

So far as Panditji's letter is concerned, the version of Mr. Jain, P.S. to Shri Asaf Ali is definitely a concoction. Even Pandit's worst opponents would not credit him with the sort of attitude displaced in that letter. In fact Panditji's solicitude for the Austrian lady to whom Netaji got married and subsequently for his daughter itself is evident of the fact that he retained sentimental attachment to Netaji despite political differences.

The whole question used to be discussed between him and Sardar who really made the first gesture by sending some amount to the Austrian lady out of the funds left by Vithalbhai and subsequently in sparing funds from I.N.A. Relief Fund for ~~exam~~ creating a Trust for his daughter In the circumstances any misunderstanding of Panditji's role would be quite misplaced.

The fact or otherwise of Netaji's death at this stage can have only an academic interest. Already a very substantial amount of expenditure has been incurred on the two Commissions. Any other Committee would also tour the East Asia and would cover the same ground without, in any way, being further enlightened. In the face of evidence which has already been collected by the two Committees it is only a strong positive evidence that can establish the faked character of the air-crash and the fact that Netaji survived and went over to Manchuria and thence to Russia, the question will still be a million-dollar question: What happened to him when he went to Russia. Was he liquidated, as was the fashion in the time of Stalin or did he escape. If so, how and where he got the asylum.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

✓ Flaged  
11/5/78  
1 DFA

The Question on the TMA treasure on which we had furnished factual information has been admitted for oral answer in the Lok Sabha on 22nd November 1978. The questioners are Shri H.V. Kamath and Shri Sunderlal Vikram.

2. Based on the factual information obtained from the Department of Culture and Ministry of External Affairs, a draft reply and a note for Supplementaries have been prepared and are placed below for approval.

3. Two aspects of the Answer to which particular attention may be drawn are :

- (a) In the information made available to us by the Ministry of External Affairs it is stated that under the instructions of the then Prime Minister the treasure box was 'brought to India and delivered to the Ministry of External Affairs' and remained with them temporarily. In our answer to parts (a) and (b) of the question, we are stating that the box was brought to India under instructions of the then Prime Minister 'and handed over to him immediately on arrival, and was retained by the Ministry of External Affairs temporarily'. This is based on the amendment made by Principal Secretary on the draft reply suggested by the Department of Culture at the time of supplying factual information to Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- (b) In answer to part (1), we are mentioning broad details of the contents and their total net weight, and are not laying a complete list on the table of the House, as this will run into a number of pages. Full details are available in the Note of Supplementaries.

4. Since the answer, even without a complete list of the items of jewellery, is very long, the Question is being answered by laying a statement on the Table, rather than in having to read out a long answer.

5. The question has very low priority, being the last on the day's list, and therefore unlikely to be reached for oral answer.

11/5/78  
(P.S. Sreeraman)  
18.11.1978

✓ Flaged  
11/5/78  
1 DFA  
JSLT  
We are not attaching the complete list of articles with the statement which will be laid on the Table of the House in reply to Shri Kamath's Question. If, however, members press to see the list PM may like to agree to give it.

In reply to part (l) and (m) of your

To All

Question our reply is that the contents  
would not be available for observation  
and inspection to M.P.s. Since anything  
connected with Netaji has emotional  
connotation for some M.P.s, P.M. may  
like to agree to reopen the box  
for observation but not inspection.

Khalid  
20.11.78

Principal Secretary

For approval.

2. I think that we should maintain  
that they have been sealed and are therefore not available  
for inspection. I do not think that the question would be  
reached for supplementaries being the last in the list.

U. Khan  
21.11.78

Plain speech  
tomorrow morning with  
Mr. Davy  
Chairman & Co  
rarely  
20.11.78  
Cable 240

D. Srinivasan

P.M. Morarji Desai  
21/11/

800/12/12

Lok Sabha Stated Questions for 22<sup>nd</sup> November 78  
Netaji Treasure 12 Confidential

In response to a request from Principal Secretary, Shri K.R. Damle had written a letter in the begining of September explaining how exactly Netaji's treasure was brought by him to India. Since this letter was not readily available I contacted Shri Damle on the telephone and requested him to recount the details he had given in the letter. Shri Damle said that around the 10th of November, 1952 he happened to be in Japan. While at the airport to take the plane on his return journey to India the then Indian Ambassador Dr. Rau met him at the airport and requested him to carry a sealed steel brief case which was said to contain jewellery. He was asked to hand over the box personally to the then Prime Minister. When Shri Damle asked the Ambassador about arrangements for clearance of the suit case through Customs in Delhi, he was told that arrangements would be made by the authorities in Delhi. When he arrived in Delhi by a Panam flight, he was met by Shri R.K. Nehru who asked the suit case to be handed over to him. Shri Damle said that as per instructions received by him he would hand it over personally to the Prime Minister. Accordingly he went to the Prime Minister and handed over the suitcase. It was opened in his presence and was found to contain jewellery items which had been mostly charred and covered with soot. Thereafter Shri Damle left.

No 22  
(N.S.Sreeraman)  
21-11-78

Principal Secretary has seen.

The Question was  
not reached to  
in oral answer.)

Answered  
23.11.78

Answer  
23/11

PS(S)

Part III

18  
8 p

Re. Q on Netaji's Treasure

i. In the note for supplementaries,  
PM may kindly see the last but  
one para. There is no substantial  
discrepancy in weight in one  
particular case - ~~500~~<sup>635</sup> grams.

When weighed in Tokyo, it was  
~~500~~<sup>635</sup> grammes more than what  
in our case it is. Weight is more by 500 grams  
it indicates now. It seems  
neither External Affairs nor National  
Museum actually weighed the contents.  
They only tallied the list.

2. In view of the sentimental  
~~attachment~~ involvement of some  
members, PM may, if requested,

~~be~~ to consider making a  
list of items available to  
members.

initial  
22/11

PM L. 8C.

PS(s) —  $\frac{r \infty}{23/11/78}$   
Bob

101

yet another question has been tabled in Lok Sabha regarding the treasure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, on which Lok Sabha Secretariat have called for factual information. The Question and the draft reply to Lok Sabha Secretariat placed below may kindly be seen.

In this context I would like to draw pointed attention to the comparative statement placed below indicating the weight of the articles when they were taken over by the Indian liaison Mission, Tokyo in 1951 and the weight found on inspection on 9th October 1978 when the box was opened under PM's instructions. There are minor differences between the two sets of weights in regard to a number of packages which could perhaps be ascribed to different weighing machines used on the two occasions, but in the case of two packages, the difference is substantial - in package 2 (charred and broken bangles, pins, bracelets, buckles etc) 1978 weight is about 500 grams more than the 1951 weight given by the Indian Mission, Tokyo, whereas in package 17 (Metals mostly base and dust) the 1978 weight is nearly 635 grams less than the weight given by the Indian Mission. The National Museum does not have any record of the weight of the items when received by them. This fact had been brought out in the Note for Supplementarys submitted while answering Starred Question No.60 in the Lok Sabha on 22nd November. I had also spoken to JS(I) who drew PM's attention to it.

In this context the question of retaining or omitting para 5 of the draft reply to Lok Sabha Secretariat placed below has to be considered.

To you  
(N.S.Greeraman)  
27-11-78

JS(I) I had mentioned to PM about the difference in weight of some of the packets - especially about two packets where the weight difference is substantial. Since a similar question has already been answered in L.S., we are suggesting disallowance of 2nd Question.

Subrah

27.11.78

Principal Secretary

The treasure passed through so many hands  
It is difficult to determine whose weight.

Usha

29.11.78

Please issue the draft.

To you  
29.11.78

R.D.O. wanted the  
Offg of the Blty returned  
to him. —  
P.M. — 29/11

PSS

Pall.

In his letter dated 20th December, 1978 to Principal Secretary, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, MP, referring to the Netaji Treasure, has asked two specific questions : (i) whether a list of contents was attached with the box when it arrived in India from Tokyo or whether a list was compiled after Shri Nehru opened it; (ii) in whose official custody was the box before it was delivered one year later to the National Museum.

2. Since Dr. Swamy has been relentlessly pursuing this matter, it may be as well to narrate the facts in some detail, including certain discrepancies.

3. In regard to the first question, the items of the treasure were weighed and a list of packages of the contents was prepared on the 24th September, 1951 when the Treasure was taken over in Tokyo from Shri Ram Murthy by the First Secretary and Registrar of the Indian Mission. A copy of this list was then sent to the Ministry of External Affairs. Shri K.R. Damle brought the Treasure from Tokyo to India. There is no indication that a list was found along with the Treasure. Shri Damle arrived in Delhi on the 10th November, 1952 evening by a Pan Am flight.

4. According to the records of Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Damle on arrival delivered the valuables to Shri H. Dayal, then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the MEA. The suitcases were kept in his cabinet. Thereafter, on an unspecified date (somewhere around 1st December, 1952) the valuables were checked and weighed. The next time the items were checked and weighed was when the Treasure was opened on 19-10-78 in the National Museum on the orders of the Prime Minister. The weights recorded on the three occasions are given on page 7 of MEA's note dated 21-12-78.

5. On all the items there is difference between the weights recorded on the three occasions. In most cases the difference is minor which could perhaps be ascribed to the different weighing machines used and the flex of time, but in two cases the difference is substantial. The weight of package 2 recorded on 9-10-78 is about half a kilogram more than the weight recorded by MEA on 1-12-52 in India, which is more or less the weight recorded in Tokyo also. The weight of package 16 recorded on 9-10-78 is about 600 grams less than the weight recorded in Tokyo on 24-9-51. The weight of this package was not recorded on 1-12-52 by MEA although they have listed it.

6. There is another discrepancy which is worth noting, particularly in the context of Dr. Swamy's contention. According to the records of MEA, the valuables on arrival in India were delivered by Shri Damle to Shri H. Dayal, then Joint Secretary in the MEA, and subsequently on an unspecified date (somewhere around 1-12-52) they were checked and weighed; the then Prime Minister inspected the articles on 9-1-53 and recorded a minute. On the other hand, in reply to a query from Principal Secretary, Shri Damle himself has stated on 3-9-78 that on arrival from Tokyo he took the valuables to Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru who had the sealed box opened in his presence, and it was seen to contain charred items of jewellery covered with soot. Thereafter the Treasure remained in the custody of MEA until it was handed over to National Museum.

7. As regards the second query of Dr. Swamy, the valuables in a sealed box were deposited in the cash chest of the Ministry of External Affairs till it was handed over to the National Museum on 30-12-53.

8. A draft reply to Dr. Swamy is placed below for consideration. Since he has not asked about the weight of the articles, nothing is being mentioned in our reply about

the discrepancy in weights.

(N.S. Sreeraman)  
8-1-79

JSC(1)

~~Principal Secretary~~

Winkler  
S-1-79  
U.S. Army  
9-1-79

PSS

10

101119

CORRESPONDENCE

DR. G. S. DHILLON

No. 21/17/74/T



SPEAKER, LOK SABHA

SPEAKER'S HOUSE  
20, AKBAR ROAD  
NEW DELHI

October 31, 1974

9083/PM/74  
Sno. 101  
Dear Madam Prime Minister,

Please refer to your letter No. 317-PMO/74 of September 21, 1974 regarding the allegation made by Shri Samar Guha in the House on the 5th August, 1974 that Shri Justice Khosla had brought a gift for you from Formosa. I saw your letter on my return from tour abroad on the 24th instant.

I suggest that if you have no objection, you may send a copy of your above-mentioned letter to Shri Samar Guha.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. G. S. Dhillon  
(G.S.DHILLON)

Shrimati Indira Gandhi,  
Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.

Submitted with best regards  
Dr. G. S. Dhillon

SM 2  
2

B.N. Tandon,  
Joint Secretary  
to the Prime Minister

No 2 (64) 56-70 PM  
vrlv

November 2, 1974

Dear Shri Samar Guha,

In the context of the reference made by you in the Lok Sabha on 5th August, 1974 to a gift alleged to have been brought for the Prime Minister by Shri Justice Khosla from Formosa, Prime Minister wrote a letter to the Speaker on 21st September, 1974 clarifying the factual position. As desired by her, a copy of that letter is sent herewith for your information.

v.S.n.10! (v v)

Yours sincerely,

Sd.

(B.N.Tandon)

Shri Samar Guha, MP  
13/4, Central Park,  
Calcutta-32.

Copy to Private Secretary to Speaker, Lok Sabha. This may kindly be brought to the notice of the Speaker with reference to his letter to the Prime Minister No.21/17/74-T dated 31st October, 1974.

M.S. Sreeraman

(N.S. Sreeraman)  
P.S. to P.M.

2/64  
MSR  
11/11

2(64)

S A S  
2  
3

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

F2/64/74-PM

20th December, 1974

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 14th December, 1974 addressed to the Prime Minister regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Yours faithfully,

(N.S. Sreeraman)  
Private Secretary to  
the Prime Minister

Shri Sasi Rajendiran,  
President,  
Tamil Nadu Forward Block Subhasist,  
250, North Masi Street,  
Madurai-1. (Tamil Nadu)

Copy with letter under acknowledgement in original forwarded to Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Shri R.D. Kapoor, Under Secretary).

MS  
20/12/74  
9c  
(N.S. Sreeraman)  
Private Secretary to  
the Prime Minister

Handed over  
F2  
21/12/74

Sreemati Indira Gandhi  
Prime Minister of India  
New-Delhi,

Swami

4

4

Madam,

Your taunt to Samar Guha in the parliament "The entire house would be happy if you can tell us where Netaji is", forced me to address this letter.

At the very outset I would speak of your father's letter addressed to Suresh Bose " I have no definite proof of Subhas death " even after the emphatical announcement of Sah Nawaz report on the floor of parliament is not ambiguous ? Secondly, why a batch of intelligence service was posted at Naimisharanya during 1964/65 to watch 'Parda Baba ' ? And when he left Naimisharanya to the gardenhouse of Raja of Ayodhya at Darsan Nagore why the intelligence service followed him like ghost ? Thirdly why Lal Bahadur Shashtri said at the parliament " We will welcome him as one of the greatest hero ", even after the declaration of Sah Nwaz report ? Justice Radha Benode Paul after returning from Japan told me personally "Plane crash was hood wink. He is alive." Justice Paul was not belong to any political party. Fifth : Why the Japanese General was refused to go to Imphal on January 24 th. last ?

Lastly on Nov.19th. 1973 I went to Safdarjan Road to say you something personally. I was directed to Lok Sabha. There I met sri,Sashon your P/S at 10-40 A.M.(Serial No.16342: Register No.563) To him object of my visit I stated otherwise that too was not fabulous. But despite my all best endeavour I could not convince him and returned to Calcutta. Middle of '74 I returned again to Naimisharanya and returning again on 18th. of this month. My bearth has been reserved otherwise would travell via Delhi. In Calcutta I will stay with A.N.Roy, 12/1, Maharani Hemantakumari Street, Calcutta 4, and Shambhu.Mookherji, 112, Feeder Road, Calcutta-57 : Phone No.58-1582,

12 th. December 1974,  
Calcutta Dharamsala,  
Jaimisharanya,  
Kapur,  
Uttar Pradesh.

Yours faithfully,  
a mendicant in social service.

Swami Amalananda  
( Swami Amalananda ) 12/12

V/AMA/NY.

12.74

MS  
25/12

PS(PA) may abstract before  
a copy is sent to NHTC  
PS(PA) H.T.C. 19/12/74

(Sno 5) 5

PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

.....

Sno 4

We forward herewith a copy of a letter dated 12th December, 1974 received by Prime Minister from Swami Amalananda, Calcutta Dharamsala, Naimisharanya, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, regarding Netaji Subhas Chander Bose.

*Note*  
D/C (N.S. Sreeraman)  
Private Secretary to  
the Prime Minister

*Ismed (W.E.)* Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri R.D. Kanor, U.S)  
P.M's Sectt. U.O. No. PMC-21130 dated 22.12.74

*Reb*

*22/12*

2(64)

S. N. 6  
HARIN SHAH

KUM KUM BUNGLOW  
COPERNICUS ROAD  
NEW DELHI 110001

TELEPHONE 336382

May 5, 1977.

My Dear Morarjibhai,

All of us know about the unparalleled adoration in which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is held by the entire country. Some of us who had opportunity to work with him in India, owe it to him more specially to see that his high ideals remain enshrined and continue to be cherished by our successive generations.

You might recall that I was the first Indian to reach within months Formosa where Netaji was involved in the plane incident and died, from mainland China where I was a War Correspondent and General Manager, Far East, of Free Press of India News Agency, launched by Shri S. Sadanand. My investigations on the spot with the assistance of eye-witnesses and participants in the crisis in Taihoku, later called Taipah by the Chinese, were presented in the form of a report to Government of India, who, in their turn, presented a detailed statement through Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the Lok Sabha. The sentiment, however, was strong not to see Netaji dead. Then followed, Shahnawazkhan Enquiry Committee before which, main evidence was led by Netaji's ADC Col. Habibur Rehman, who escaped death in the same incident, and myself. A voluminous report was submitted to the Parliament by this Committee.

The controversy which, however, lingered on about Netaji's death, has finally been put to rest the other day, with the passing away of Shaulmar Sadhu, whom a few interested persons had pictured as Netaji living in disguise.

I would suggest that the time is now opportune to do something to ensure that the hallowed spots in Taipah, capital of Formosa, where the plane carrying Netaji had crashed, the South Gate Japanese Army Hospital where Netaji was treated and lived for about 8 hours before breathing his last, and the Crematorium where on the outskirts of Taipah across the Wooden Log Bridge do not disappear into oblivion and go beyond recognition. To tens of millions of Indians at home and overseas, these spots, which I had personally visited and have taken photographs of, would remain sacred and place of pilgrimage. Though we do not have any diplomatic relations with the Kuomintang Government on Formosa, we do have economic relations and contacts with them. There should be no insurmountable difficulty in exploring the state of these hallow spots and our friendly interest in preserving them. If the Japanese and the Siamese could be permitted to build memorial to Buddha in India by us, there is no reason why with the cooperation of the Government there, our Government could not take some steps for the preservation of the memories of those hapless, spots. S.N. 6/4

I have visited Formosa subsequently on two occasions - last visit being in 1969 - and have visited the spots.

I feel no more time should be lost in pursuing this matter with right quarters.

I wouldwhile offering all the cooperation the Government may need in this matter, be glad to hear what the Government plans to do about this matter. A small Committee of officials and nonofficials would be a useful device to pursue this matter promptly. p.t.o.

AH MIRAH

Office of the Prime Minister

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

16 DECEMBER 1970

COPIES FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY

AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE

20 DECEMBER 1970

I am going out of Delhi for two weeks but would be available after 16th inst.

Shri Morarjibhai Desai, With Warm Regards,  
Prime Minister of India, to M.L.A.  
5, Duplex Rd., ( Harin Shah )  
New Delhi. ( Harin Shah )

1746 PM (3)/77  
20/5/77

508  
⑦ XXXXXXXX OFFICE

8

11th May, 1977

No. PMS-5374

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge your letter of the 5th May, 1977, in which you have suggested that steps should be taken to preserve the place where Shri Subhash Chandra Bose's plane crashed, the hospital where he was treated and the place of his cremation.

Yours faithfully,

DC

*H/15*  
(N.S. Sreeraman)  
Private Secretary to  
the Prime Minister

Shri Harin Shah,  
Kum Kum Bungalow,  
Copernicus Road,  
New Delhi - 110001

Issued  
Mug  
11/5/77  
21(6)

P.M.

(8) 9

prime Minister's Office

July 11, 1977

Norms. 11908

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 5th July, 1977, addressed to the Prime Minister, regarding memorials etc.

Yours faithfully,

(N.S.Sreedharan)  
Private Secretary  
to the Prime Minister

Nasra      Shri Ramosh Chandra Chanda,  
                P.O. (Ranaghat)  
                District Nadia,  
WEST BENGAL

Copy, together with the letter under acknowledgement forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.

R 11/7/77  
(N.S.Sreedharan)  
Private Secretary  
to the Prime Minister

SSA d/c

(m 2(64)

(9) 10  
F.2(64)/77-PM

September 15, 1977

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 10th September, 1977, addressed to the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,

(N.S.Sreedharan)  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister

Shri Sunil Das,  
Editor,  
Jayasree,  
20-A Prince Gulam Md. Road,  
CALCUTTA - 26

Copy, together with the letter under acknowledgement, forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.

1528  
(N.S.Sreedharan)  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister

SS = 1  
P.M.

1528  
M  
1991)

10

S.A. 17

11

No. 1355-PMC/77 ✓

New Delhi  
December 13, 1977

Dear Samar Guha,

I have received your letter of the 7th December in which you have suggested that the Khosla Commission's Report be scrapped and the issue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death be reopened.

Yours sincerely,

(Morarji Desai)

Prof. Samar Guha, M.P.,  
14, Talkatora Road,  
New Delhi.

st. 14-12-77

No. PMS-24262  
Copy with letter under acknowledgement,  
in original, forwarded to S.A. to Minister of  
Home Affairs.

R  
14/12  
(W.S. Sreeraman)  
Private Secretary to  
Prime Minister

wis

Forwarded  
by  
14/12  
2(64)

P.C. MAJUMDAR

P  
Secretary 10 P.M.  
No. 11685/77  
Date 20/12/77  
S No 18

4, BEPIN PAL ROAD,

P.O. KALIGHAT, CALCUTTA, 26

13.12.77

Dear Shri Desai,

You may remember that when I interviewed you at Delhi on 26 August last, I handed over to you a printed copy of a largely signed petition requesting the Government to appoint a fresh committee for the investigation of the fate of Netaji Subhas Bose. After my return from Delhi I read the Government Sixth Volume of the printed records of the British <sup>A</sup> Transfer of Power (to India). The secret correspondence between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India published in this volume leaves no doubt that Subhas Bose did not die in any air crash on 18 August, 1945, and probably proceeded to Manchuria. I had a talk with my old pupil Shri Samar Guha M.P. yesterday, and he will be glad to meet you and discuss the whole matter in detail. As all the previous Committee have concluded that Subhas died in the Air-crash i cannot help thinking that there is a good case for the appointment of a fresh Committee to investigate into the matter. Kindly excuse me for the intrusion on your valuable time.

Yours sincerely

The Hon Shri Morarji Desai

R. Majumdar

S No 19

4779. PM/77  
16.12.77.

(12) S.A. 19

13

No. 104-PMO/78

New Delhi,  
January 16, 1978

My dear Majumdar,

Thank you for your letter of 13th December 1977, regarding Netaji Subhas Bose. I have had the sixth volume of the printed record of the Transfer of Power 1942-47 looked into but we have not been able to find evidence to sustain the inference that Subhas Bose did not die in the air crash on 28.8.1945. In fact there is a reference to the Japanese announcement that he had died in the air crash. The reference to that matter in the volume is presumably because they were not sure whether the Japanese announcement was correct. In these circumstances, I don't think that this needs any further investigation to establish that he did not die in the aircrash. In fact subsequent inquiries made it quite clear beyond reasonable doubt that he died in the aircrash. This has been confirmed by more than one inquiry. If it is assumed that he were alive, I do not think he would have remained out of India till now. He would have doubtless come here soon after or later at any time during the last so many years. Even under the law if a person is not heard of for seven years, he is presumed to be dead. In the circumstances, I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by having another investigation since all previous investigations and lapse of time should leave no doubt that Shri Subhas Bose is no more. In case you have in mind any other reference in the volume, please let me know and I shall have it looked into.

Yours sincerely,

(Morarji Desai)

Shri R.C. Majumdar,  
4, Bipin Pal Road,  
P.O. Kalighat,  
Calcutta-26

o/c

Anand  
M/11

S.No. 24

JS(H)  
BCCS  
JL  
1/1

18/1/78  
R(S)

B/III

(E)

2(64)

Prof. Samar Guha,  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



14, Talkatora Road,  
New Delhi,

25th January, 1978.

14

2/47

Respected Morarji bhai,

You had asked me to send a copy of Khosla Commission's Report on "Disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose". I waited a few days to send it to you as I felt a note should be included with it for proper understanding of the nature of the report and the findings of the Khosla Commission.

*Durbar  
Bt  
2/1*  
*HS*

The Report of Khosla Commission is more an instance of suppression and concealment of facts than of their judicial examination. Mr. Khosla examined 224 Indian and Japanese witnesses, but discarding the evidence of all Indian witnesses, he arrived at his findings on the basis of the Japanese evidence only. Again, about the Japanese evidence, Mr. Khosla relied exclusively on the evidence of four Japanese who claimed to have travelled in the same plane with Netaji and of a doctor who claimed also to have treated allegedly injured Netaji in a Formosan hospital. But none of them could produce a single piece of paper or any kind of document in support of their claims. Mr. Khosla also did not take into consideration various statements of Habibur Rahman which forms the part of the exhibits before the Commission. He paid little attention to the documents placed before the Commission, very meagre though they were, in arriving at his findings. The evidence and documents as claimed before the Khosla Commission comprised about 6,000 typed pages, but discarding either the evidence, or the documents Mr. Khosla arrived at his findings exclusively on the hearsay evidence of five Japanese witnesses only.

I have taken time to send you the report because I felt some note should be enclosed with it for your perusal and also for understanding the nature of the Khosla Commission's report.

My book on Netaji's mystery is in the press which I expect to come out by the end of the next month and when published, I will certainly present a copy to you which will make you understand why I had been unyieldingly fighting for unravelling the mystery about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

With kindest regards,

p-3(n) S.no 23

Yours sincerely,

*Samar Guha*  
(Samar Guha).

Shri Morarji R. Desai,  
Prime Minister,  
Prime Minister's House,  
NEW DELHI.

(14)  
Samar

15

New Delhi

February 2, 1978.

My dear Samar Guha,

Please refer to your letter of the 25th January 1978 regarding Khosla Commission's Report. I think that any controversy about the Report of the Khosla Commission is pointless. Whatever you might say about the findings of the Khosla Commission, the fact remains that Netaji has not returned which he undoubtedly would have done if he were alive. His contemporaries and companions who were examined from time to time have been almost unanimous that he died in the air crash. The Japanese reported to that effect and the report appears to have been accepted at the time. So many years after the event any fresh investigation seems to me to be a sheer waste of money or any further controversy about it a sheer waste of time. In the circumstances I would advise you to let the matter rest where it is.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(E)

(Morarji Desai)

Prof. Samar Guha, M.P.,  
14, Talkatora Road,  
New Delhi.

P/S/C(S) 16  
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P/I

AC  
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MS 312

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VH  
JCS (II) Jhunay

2(64)

Act.

R.C.MAJUNDAR

4, BEPIN PAL ROAD,

P.O.KALIGHAT, CALCUTTA, 26

(15)

3.2.78

My dear Shri Desai,

Many thanks for your letter No. 1C4-FMO/ 78, dated 16 January, 78. I could not reply to it earlier as I intended once again to go through Wavell's Journal (edited by Penderel Moon, 1973) and the Vol.VI of the Transfer of Power 1942-47. As a student of history I feel no hesitation in saying that the selected records enclosed herewith definitely prove that the British Government had very good reason to disbelief the story of air-crash as a fact, and to do so.

I may draw particular attention to the report of an American newspaper correspondent that he saw Subhas Bose at Saigon on 20 August, 1945. I drew the attention of the Khosla Commission in my evidence, but I was asked to produce the newspaper. I replied that it is not possible for me to do so, but if the Commission really wants to find out the truth a copy of the relevant extract may be obtained through the Government of India. Of course it was not done, though this whole one evidence would have settled the issue (perhaps the Commission did not get it for this very reason). S.no.25

Even now I would request you to secure a copy of the American newspaper in order to establish the truth. If you so desire I may send you the name of the newspaper.

As you will see in line 14 of the enclosed note, the British official sources refer ~~referred~~ to this incident or to similar news in newspapers which strengthen the conclusion that Subhas Bose was alive after 18th August, 1945.

In any case, the facts in the enclosed note cannot possibly leave any doubt that the British Government disbelieved the story of the air-crash, at least until 20 October, 1945 (item 3) and probably even in 1946, and <sup>thought</sup> that he was in Russia ~~and that he was in Russia~~ from which place he was in correspondence with Jawharlal Nehru. I have independent evidence that Nehru did not believe that Subhas Bose was dead. About 1960 a mendicant suddenly established an Asram in Shocalmari (an insignificant village in North Bengal) and a rumour spread that he was Subhas Bose in disguise. It was rumoured that Nehru sent an old member of Rajya Sabha and an ex-revolutionary, ~~Suresh Ghosh~~ (Suren Ghosh) to Scalmari to find out whether the Sadhu was really Subhas. On his return Suren Ghosh told Nehru that the Sadhu was not Subhash. Several years later, I asked Jadugopal Mukherjee, an old revolutionary respected by Suren Ghosh as his Guru, whether Nehru did send Suren Ghosh to find out whether the Sadhu was Subhas. Shri Mukherji asked me to promise not to divulge it till his death and then said that it was true.

The "Observer" of Delhi, in its issue of 7 November, 1977, p. 11, makes many statements to show that Nehru knew that Netaji was not killed by air crash but I could not verify them. If

18  
possible you may take steps to ascertain the truth of  
of the statements.

I beg to be excused for writing this long letter.

Shri Morarji Desai

Yours sincerely

Kellayundar

P.S.

I forgot to mention an interesting and important fact.  
~~Major General~~ Shah Nawaz Khan, the Chairman of the first Commission  
that definitely concluded that Netaji died in the air Crash  
on 18 August, 1945, declared in a public meeting in Calcutta  
while hoisting the National Flag on Netaji's birthday anniversary  
on 23 January, 1951, that Netaji was alive and  
hoped that he would be in our midst when we celebrate  
his next birth anniversary.

This speech was printed in newspapers the very next morning  
~~which are~~  
~~and is~~ still available.

Kellayundar

1. Lord Wavell writes in his Journal (Diary) / on 24 August, 1945 :

" I wonder if the Japanese announcement of Subhas Chandra Bose's death in an air crash is true. I suspect it very much; it is just what would be given out if he meant to go underground. My first reaction when I heard it was to tell P.S.V. (Private Secretary to the Viceroy) to ask S.E.A.C. (South-East Asia Command) to make most careful enquiries into the story as soon as they could.

2. The S.E.A.C. reported as follows on ~~on~~ 14th September, 1945 :

The continued existence of Netaji, possibly underground, would undoubtedly maintain ~~would undoubtedly maintain~~ the fervour (towards Netaji) of the many Jifs (Japanese Indian Foreign Legion) , , - , , , The I.N.A. political circles in the Province have been greatly interested in the news item which alleged that Bose had been seen alive in Saigon ~~after the~~ after the Aircraft incident ..... The prime problem ..... is the action to be taken against Subhas Bose if he were found alive .

3. Memorandum of the Secretary of ~~the~~ State for India dated <sup>1945</sup> 20 October, repeats the last two lines quoted above

4. On 22 August, 1945, the Japanese newspapers published the news that Netaji died in aircrash on the 18th. On 23 August the Home Member of the Viceroy's Council, Mudie, submitted a long note to the Viceroy Wavell, discussing ~~the~~ the various ways in which Netaji could be treated and the advantage and the disadvantage of each. Finally he suggested that the best course as regards " treatment of Bose " will be to " leave him where he is and not to ask for his surrender or release. He might, of course, in certain circumstances, be welcomed by the Russians . This course would raise fewest immediate political difficulties "

Wavell proceeded to London and handed over this note to the British Prime Minister Attlee. The British cabinet approved it on October, 25.

5. "In 1946 according to Allied Secret Report No.10/Misc/INA. the British Intelligence informed the Wavell Government: "A secret report says Nehru received a letter from Bose saying that he was in Russia and that he wanted to escape in India " (Organiser, February 2, 1976, page 3)

N.B- Notes 2-4 are taken from the book Transfer of Power  
mentioned in your letter

20

6. The first news of the alleged death of Bose was contained in a Domei ~~passage~~ message from Tokyo dated 23 August, 1945, stating that he was treated in a hospital in Japan and died on 18-19 August.

(This obviously shows that somehow the original plan of the false announcement of death <sup>The of Subhas</sup> was carried out by someone erroneously).

7. The SACSEA Commission No.1 report dated 6 November 1945 states : "It is beyond doubt that he (Bose) had plan to go underground. The earlier report from the Commission dated 18 October, 1945, suggested that the Japanese had undertaken to give Bose the necessary facilities to go <sup>u</sup>nderground.

8. No. 3 C-5 Intelligence Bureau (H.D.), New Delhi dated 19.2.46

My dear Young  
We have at last completed an examination of the information available here relating to the alleged death of Bose and the result is not ~~altogether~~ entirely satisfactory. Any definite conclusion on the incident is doubtful.

*Ramayundar*

The Notes nos. 6-8 are

taken from the dissentient

Report of Surendra Chandra Bose, pp. 194-196

Sir 25  
6

21

F.2(64)/78-PM

February 15, 1978

Sir 24

Dear Sir,

I am / desired to acknowledge receipt  
of your letter dated the 3rd February, 1978,  
addressed to the prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,

✓ 1572

(N.S.Sreeraman)  
private Secretary to  
the prime Minister

SD x/c

Shri R.C. Majumdar,  
4, Bepin Pal Road,  
P.O. Kalighat,  
CAICUTTA-26.

V. M.  
Allied  
B/

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)

62167  
118  
PM/78  
3853  
1.8.78



22 Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,  
New Delhi-110001.

July 28, 1978

Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai  
Prime Minister of India  
1, Safdarjung Road  
New Delhi-110001.

Dear Morarjibhai:

You may have seen press reports sometime ago in which I had alleged that in 1952, Nehru had sent a ICS officer to Tokyo to take delivery of Subhash Chandra Bose's INA jewels. Since there is no record of Nehru having deposited with Government any such jewels around that period, I think a probe is necessary.

The ICS officer is Mr.K.R.Damle who is living in Bombay. I hope you will have the matter looked into so that the truth may be established.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

*S. Swamy*

(Subramaniam Swamy)

*Deccan  
Wk  
30 Sept 1978*

(B)

23

No. 1494-PMO/78

New Delhi,  
August 3, 1978

My dear Subramaniam Swamy,

Please refer to your letter of July 28, 1978 regarding delivery of Subhash Babu's I.N.A. jewels. We have already looked into the matter and made enquiries from Shri K.R. Damle. Nothing worthwhile was received during Shri Damle's visit to Tokyo.

I have also received your letter bearing the same date about Smt. Indira Gandhi's assets. I am looking into the matter.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Morarji Desai)

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, MP,  
22, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,  
New Delhi.

Done  
M.W.B.  
13/8/78

PSD 318  
July 1978

(E)

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy,  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(A. SABHA)



(19) 24  
22 Rajendra Prasad Road,  
New Delhi-110001.

August 17, 1978.

U640-011/78  
22/8/78 /  
Shri Morarji Desai,  
Prime Minister of India,  
1 Safdarjung Road,  
New Delhi.

7282/78  
22/6

Dear Morarji Shah,

Please refer to your reply No. 1494-PMO/78 dated 3rd August, to my letter of July 28, 1978.

From what you have enquired from Shri K.R.Damle, may I know whether it is confirmed that

- Dinesh  
WT  
2/8  
PL See
1. Mr. K.R. Damle was sent a cipher telegram by the External Affairs Ministry asking him to pick up a parcel with unknown contents, to be delivered by the Japanese authorities in Tokyo and personally hand it over to Prime Minister Nehru.
  2. Whether Mr. Damle upon arrival in Delhi via Hongkong was met at the airport by Mr. R.K. Nehru who demanded he hand over the parcel to him, but Mr. Damle refused pointing to the specific instructions contained in the cipher telegram?
  3. Whether Mr. Damle took the parcel directly to P.M's house, and Pandit Nehru opened the parcel in Mr. Damle's presence?
  4. Whether Mr. Damle saw for the first time that the parcel contained jewels with a layer of soot?
  5. Whether Pandit Nehru then relieved Mr. Damle of further responsibilities in the matter?
  6. Whether Pandit Nehru never reported any part of the entire transaction to the Government or handed over any part of the parcel to the Government as would be required of him? Nor did Mr. Nehru or Mr. Damle mention any of this to any Netaji Enquiry Commission?

-:: 2 ::-

✓

If the answer to these questions is in the affirmative, you will agree that it needs to be recorded because it may have a bearing on the entire mystery of Netaji's disappearance. In the interest of search for truth, I urge you to institute a probe in this matter.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

*S. Swamy*  
(Subramaniam Swamy).

(20)

26

There have been two enquiries into the report of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the air-crash on 18th August 1945 at Taihoki airfield during his air-journey to Manchuria, one by a Committee presided over by Maj. General Shah Nawaz Khan and second by a One-man Committee of Inquiry headed by Shri G.D. Khosla, retired Judge of the Punjab High Court. The majority report of the first Committee and Shri Khosla held the report of death as true. Since then, reasonable doubts have been cast on the correctness of the conclusions reached in the two Reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of witnesses have been noticed.

Some further contemporary official documentary records have also become available. In the light of those doubts and contradictions and those records, Government consider that it would be very difficult to regard these findings as conclusive.

[At the same time Government feels that evidence being the same it is most unlikely that any new light can be thrown on this matter which might compel a reversal of the earlier findings. They, therefore, consider that no useful purpose would be served by having any further inquiry.]

Government hope that in the light of this statement the Hon. Member will withdraw his Motion.

18/8

...

P.P. 18/8

P. 111

There have been two enquiries into the report of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the air-crash on 18th August 1945 at Taihoki airfield during his air-journey to Manchuria, one by a Committee presided over by Maj. General Shah Nawaz Khan and second by a One-man Committee of Inquiry headed by Shri G.D. Khosla, retired Judge of the Punjab High Court. The majority report of the first Committee and Shri Khosla held the report of death as true. Since then, reasonable doubts have been cast on the correctness of the conclusions reached in the two Reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of witnesses have been noticed. Some further contemporary official documentary records have also become available. In the light of those doubts and contradictions and those records, Government consider that it would be very difficult to regard these findings as conclusive. At the same time Government feels that evidence being the same it is most unlikely that any new light can be thrown on this matter which might compel a reversal of the earlier findings. They, therefore, consider that no useful purpose would be served by having any further inquiry. Government hope that in the light of this statement the Hon. Member will withdraw his Motion.

(21) 32  
No. MS-18989  
**PERSONAL**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

26th August 1978

I believe P.M. earlier has had a talk with you about the treasure reported to have been salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is alleged to have met his death. There is a reference to it in the Report of the Enquiry Committee presided over by Major General Shah Nawaz Khan. Your name does not figure among the witnesses who were examined. Shri Subramaniam Swamy has raised the question with P.M. and has sent to P.M. the following queries:

- So(Pol)
1. Mr.K.R.Damle was sent a cipher telegram by the External Affairs Ministry asking him to pick up a parcel with unknown contents, to be delivered by the Japanese authorities in Tokyo and personally hand it over to Prime Minister Nehru.
  2. Whether Mr.Damle upon arrival in Delhi via Hongkong was met at the airport by Mr.R.K.Nehru who demanded he hand over the parcel to him, but Mr.Damle refused pointing to the specific instructions contained in the cipher telegram?
  3. Whether Mr.Damle took the parcel directly to P.M's house, and Pandit Nehru opened the parcel in Mr.Damle's presence?
  4. Whether Mr.Damle saw for the first time that the parcel contained jewels with a layer of soot?

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J.S.D.  
Poet.  
31/8

PERSONAL  
CONFIDENTIAL

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-2-

5. Whether Pandit Nehru then relieved Mr.Damle of further responsibilities in the matter?
6. Whether Pandit Nehru never reported any part of the entire transaction to the Government or handed over any part of the parcel to the Government as would be required of him? Nor did Mr.Nehru or Mr.Damle mention any of this to any Netaji Enquiry Commission?

P.M. would like to know if you can throw any light on the matters raised so that he can send a suitable reply to Shri Subramaniam Swamy.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(V.Shankar)

Shri K.R.Damle,

14-A, Anand Darshan  
13, Dr. Gopal Rao Deshmukh Marg,  
P.C. Pedder Road,  
Bombay - 400026

✓  
P.S.G.W. Seey

पत्र संखा 2(64)/78-प्र००समा

29 अगस्त, 1978

महीदय,

मुझे आदेश हुआ है कि नेताजों सुभाष चन्द्र बीस सूति दिवस पर सारक पत्र के विषय में प्रधान मंत्री जो की सम्मीलित आपके पत्र दिनांक 18-8-78 को प्राप्ति सूचना दें।

भवदोय,

(न० स० श्रीरामन)

प्रधान मंत्रीजो के निजो सचिव

श्री चन्द्रशेखर जौरिहार,

अध्यक्ष,

जनता युवा पोर्चा,

लालधर - लालटनगेज,

जिला - पलामू,

(बिहार प्रदेश)

प्रतिलिपि, उत्तराधीन पत्र सहित, यह मंत्रालय की प्रेषित।

आनु. सं. जारी/समाप्ति  
मध्याह्न  
29/8/78

(W.C.)

न० स० श्रीरामन

(न० स० श्रीरामन)

प्रधान मंत्रीजो के निजो सचिव

SSA 8/1

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(23)

प्रधान मंत्रीजो के निजो सचिव

31

स० 2(64)/78-प्र००सम०

54.34

29 अगस्त, 1978

महीदय,

मुझे आदेश हुआ है कि नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस सृति दिवस पर स्मारक पँड के विषय में प्रधान मंत्रीजो की सम्मीलित आपके पत्र दिनांक 18-7-78 को प्राप्ति सूचना दू।

भवदोय,

(न० स० श्रीरामन)

प्रधान मंत्रीजो के निजो सचिव

श्री ईयद हसन,

अध्यक्ष,

जनता युवा मीर्चा,

लाल मिया की दारगाह,

फुलवारी शरोफ,

पटना।

प्रतिलिपि, उत्तराधीन पत्र सहित, गृह मंत्रालय की प्रेषित।

न स की.

(न० स० श्रीरामन)

प्रधान मंत्री जो के निजो सचिव

SSA 8/c

(W.C.)

111

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(S.no) 35  
21/32  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

I mentioned to P.M. regarding the views of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee on the question of the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji was reported to have met his death. Chapter VI of Shah Nawaz Khan's Report deals with this whole problem. According to the Report the box had been tampered with, was much lighter in weight and less than half full and that the valuables remained with Mr. Murti from 1945 to 1951. According to the Khosla Committee Report the valuables were scattered in the airfield when the plane crashed and some of the articles were damaged. Whatever valuables were there were gathered and placed in a box which was sent to Tokyo along with the casket containing Netaji's ashes. This box was taken charge of by Mr. Ramamurti and handed over to the Indian Mission in Tokyo in 1951. Eventually it appears that it was received India and was entrusted to the National Archives for custody. P.M. would like to know whether it is still in National Archives, whether the National Archives have any material which can throw light on its history and whether they are aware of its contents and value.

Extracts of photostat copies of lists made out by Col. Habibur Rehman and by Mr. S.A. Ayer are attached.

O/C

28.8.1978  
(V. Shankar)

Education Secretary (Shri E. Sabanayagam)

M.S-19057 ✓

28-8-78

21(64)

PROF. SAMAR GUHA  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



14-Talkatora Road, 33  
New Delhi-110001,

August 24, 1978

S. 1. 36

Respected Morarjibhai,

In my earlier meeting with you I could not catch your words when you said that the draft statement on 'Disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose' was shown to me. Yesterday, Shri Ravindra Varma told me in the House that Shri Biju Patnaik was entrusted to show it to me, - but unfortunately neither could he show the draft to me nor discuss anything about it except the question of fresh inquiry, and that too casually in the Parliament Lobby.

Shri Varma hurriedly read out a portion of the draft to me in the House. He was rather not inclined to show me the draft. I could understand his difficulty as, in the House, it would not have been proper, perhaps, to show me the draft. The text of the draft, what he read out to me, appears rather somewhat confusing, at least that part of the draft which deals with the question of fresh inquiry.

I feel that there is no necessity for the Government to make any observation in regard to the necessity about a fresh inquiry about Netaji. As I told you categorically that, for reasons which I have communicated to you personally, I feel that there is no necessity, any more, of further inquiry.

However, I think this part should have been left to me to say it before the House while withdrawing my amendment regarding the demand for fresh inquiry. Such procedure would have helped the Government or otherwise embarrassing questions may be raised in the House and outside in regard to the issue of fresh inquiry. If there is any adverse criticism to be met in this regard, it will be better that it should be left to me to face it.

You have dealt with this delicate matter very judiciously. Now that my Motion on Khosla Commission's Report will come up before Lok Sabha early next week, I shall be highly obliged to you if you kindly entrust one of your Cabinet colleagues, like Prof. Madhu Dandavate, to show me the draft so that I can carefully go through it and suggest to you if any change is to be made without substantially altering the main perspective of the draft.

S. 1. 36

....2

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



34

- 2 -

I hope you will understand my position and the responsibility I have to shoulder so far as public opinion is concerned, in regard to not demanding any fresh inquiry about Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Samar Guha

( SAMAR GUHA )

Shri Morarji Desai,  
Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.

(26)

Morarji Desai  
35

New Delhi,  
August 26, 1978

S. 36

Dear Guha,

Please refer to your letter of August 24. I understand that Biju will get in touch with you in regard to the statement which the Government would want to make on whether another Committee to inquire into Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's disappearance would serve any useful purpose.

Yours sincerely,

*(Signature)*

9/c  
(Morarji Desai)

Prof. Samar Guha, MP  
14, Talkatora Road,  
New Delhi-1

Insured.

M.W/V

P.Y/(S) — to  
28/8

P.Y  
111.

(E)

7288/26-Parv  
7/11/78

(27) 2'

MOST IMMEDIATE

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
(Question Branch)

36

SUBJECT: Starred Question Dy. No. 733 for 22-11-78  
regarding Treasury bill belonging to Netaji Sabhash Chauhan

*extent of  
Central  
responsibility*  
Ministry of P.M.'s office is requested  
kindly to state the facts regarding the above question (copy enclosed) with a  
view to enable the Speaker to decide the admissibility of the question.

While furnishing the facts, it may please be stated whether the note has  
been shown to the Minister. In the absence of any indication to this effect it  
will be assumed that it has been issued with the approval of the Officer who has  
signed it.

*Immediate*  
*B.M.*  
It may also please be stated whether the Ministry have any objection to  
the information contained therein being conveyed to the Member.

A reply is requested by 8-11-78

*V. S. Dhillon*  
for SENIOR EXAMINER OF QUESTIONS  
Tel. No.

*fc(s)*  
*Tel. No. -*  
*7/11*  
Ministry of P.M.'s Office

L.S.S. U.O. No. SQ.D 733/22-11-78 d dated the 6.11.78

LSS/Q.1/8

# QUESTION FOR THE LOK SABHA

37

D. No. 733

Ministry to which the day has been allotted P.M. OFFICE

The question will be put down for the sitting on the :— 22.11.78

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:

Prime Minister  
Will the Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a treasure box belonging to the President of Arzee Eukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was brought to India some years ago;
- (b) if so, when exactly, by whom and in what circumstances;
- (c) where and in whose custody it had been kept since;
- (d) whether it was opened recently;
- (e) if so, when exactly, by whom, under whose orders;
- (f) the reasons for opening the box;
- (g) the names of persons who were present when the box was opened;
- (h) the description of the box, and of the method or technique by which it was opened;
- (i) the detailed inventory of the contents of the box;
- (j) whether the box is lying open with the contents taken out, or whether the contents have been replaced and the box re-closed;

- (k) where the box is now kept;
- (l) whether the box and its contents are available for observation and inspection by members of Parliament; and
- (m) if not, the reasons therefor?

R/3.11

(28) Com 45

39.

PROPOSED REPLIES TO THE QUESTION

- a) & b) A box said to contain the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji was reported to have met his death, was made over to the National Museum by the Ministry of External Affairs in 1953. *It was brought to India by Shri K.P. Dange from Tokyo under instructions from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he arrived in India*. The box is placed in a Diplomatic Bag which had been sealed by the Ministry of External Affairs and entrusted to the custody of the National Museum, New Delhi.
- c) Yes
- d) On 9/10/73, in the presence of the following officers
1. Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Department of Culture.
  2. Shri M.N. Deshpande, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.
  3. Shri C. Sivaramamurti, Former Director, National Museum.
  4. Dr P. Banerjee, Assistant Director, National Museum.
  5. Shri I.D. Mathur, Keeper(L&E), National Museum.
  6. Dr N.R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum.
- Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director(Establishment) and Shri Atish Sinha, Under Secretary, of the Ministry of External Affairs, joined later and left before the contents were sealed again.
- The box was opened under instructions of the Prime Minister's Office.
- f) To verify the observations made in Chapter VI of Shah Nawaz Khan's Report about the contents of the box.
- g) Please refer to reply under (e) above.
- h) The seal of the cloth bag containing the box was opened and the bag seen to contain a steel suitcase. The suitcase was opened with the key tied to the seal of the Diplomatic Bag.
- i) Detailed inventory running into 6 pages can be seen in the Report of the Committee which has already been submitted to P.M.'s Office, copy placed below in the file at flag 'X'.

- 2 -

j) The contents of the box were placed inside the suitcase and bag, and once again sealed with the seal of the National Museum.

k) In the National Museum.

l, m) The box has been re-sealed with the contents and hence they are not available for observation and inspection.

29 Oct 4/1  
41

MOST IMMEDIATE  
PARLIAMENT QUESTION

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Subject: Starred Question Dy.No.733 for 22-11-78  
regarding Treasure Box belonging to Netaji  
Subash Chandra Bose.

-0-0-0-0-

Reference is invited to Lok Sabha Secretariat u.o. No.  
SQD.733/22-~~11~~/78-Q dated the 6th November, 1978 on the subject  
mentioned above.

The facts relating to the question are given below:-

(a) & (b) A box said to contain the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji was reported to have met his death, was made over to the National Museum by the Ministry of External Affairs in 1953. It was brought to India by Shri K.R. Damle from Tokyo under instruction from the then prime Minister. It was handed over to him immediately on arrival.

(c) The box is placed in a Diplomatic Bag which had been sealed by the Ministry of External Affairs and entrusted to custody of the National Museum, New Delhi.

(d) Yes.

(e) On 9/10/78 in the presence of the following officers:

1. Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary,  
Department of Culture.
2. Shri M.N. Deshpande, Director General  
Archaeological Survey of India.
3. Shri C. Sivaramamurti, Former Director,  
National Museum.
4. Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant Director,  
National Museum.
5. Shri J.D. Mathur, Keeper (I&E), National Museum.
6. Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum.

Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director (Establishment) and  
Shri Atish Sinha, Under Secretary of the Ministry of External  
Affairs, joined later and left before the contents were  
sealed again.

The box was opened under instructions of the prime  
Minister.

(f) To verify the observations made in Chapter VI of  
Shah Nawaz Khan's Report about the contents of the box.

(g) Please refer to reply under (e) above.

(h) The seal of the cloth bag containing the box was  
opened and the bag seen to contain a steel suitcase. The  
suitcase was opened with the key tied to the seal of the  
Diplomatic Bag.

(i) A detailed inventory has been prepared.

(j) The contents of the box were placed inside  
suitcase and bag, and once again sealed with

42  
(l) & (m) The box has been re-sealed with the contents and hence they are not available for observation and inspection.

There is no objection to this information being conveyed to the Member.

100.  
15/11  
(N.S.Greeraman)  
private Secretary  
to the prime Minister

7/11/78

Lok Sabha Secretariat (Question Branch)  
P.M's Office u.o. No. PMS-25709 .dated: 13-11-78

Copy forwarded for information to Parliament  
Section, PM's Office.

13/11/78  
Lok  
M  
P.III

(30) *for Justice* *Govt. of India*  
*Standards* *Adm. Recd. for 22/11/70*

43

Treasure Box belonging to Netaji  
Subhas Chandra Bose

\* 60. SHRI HARI VISHNU  
KAMATH;  
SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER  
प्रधान मंत्री  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a treasure box belonging to the President of Arzee Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was brought to India some years ago;

(b) if so, when exactly, by whom and in what circumstances;

(c) where and to whose custody it had been kept since;

(d) whether it was opened recently;

(e) if so, when exactly, by whom under whose orders;

(f) the reasons for opening the box;

(g) the names of persons who were present when the box was opened;

(h) the description of the box, and of the method or techniques by which it was opened;

(i) the detailed inventory of the contents of the box;

(j) whether the box is lying open with the contents taken out or whether the contents have been replaced and the box re-closed;

(k) where the box is now kept;

(l) whether the box and its contents are available for observation and inspection by Members of Parliament; and

(m) if not, the reasons therefor?

नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस का बहुमूल्य वस्तुओं  
का सन्दूक

\* 60. श्री हरि विष्णु कामतः  
श्री सुरेन्द्र बिक्रमः

क्या प्रधान मंत्री पह बताने की कृपा  
करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि आरजी  
हुकूमत-ए-आजाद हिन्द के प्रेजीडेंट, नेताजी  
सुभाषचन्द्र बोस का बहुमूल्य वस्तुएं रखने  
का सन्दूक कुछ वर्ष पूर्व भारत लाया गया  
था;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो किसके द्वारा किस समय पर लाया गया और किन परिस्थितियों में लाया गया;

(ग) उसके बाद उसे कहाँ और किसकी अभिरक्षा में रखा गया;

(घ) क्या उसे हाल ही में खोला गया है;

(ङ) यदि हाँ, तो किस समय पर तथा किसके द्वारा और किसके आदेशों से खोला गया;

(च) सन्दूक को खोलने के क्या कारण हैं;

(झ) जब सन्दूक खोला गया तो उस समय उपस्थित व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ज) सन्दूक का विवरण क्या है तथा वह किस पद्धति ग्रथवा तकनीक से खोला गया;

(झ) सन्दूक की वस्तुओं की विस्तृत सूची क्या है;

(ञ) क्या सन्दूक की वस्तुएं बाहर निकाल ली गई हैं और वह खुला पड़ा है

या उसमें वस्तुएं बापस रख दी गई हैं और सन्दूक को पुनः बन्द कर दिया गया है;

(ट) इस समय वह सन्दूक कहाँ रखा हुआ है;

(ठ) क्या संसद सदस्य इस सन्दूक को तथा इसकी वस्तुओं को देख सकते हैं और उनका निरीक्षण कर सकते हैं; और

(इ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

*Pall Sekhia may be.  
refer to me*

*AO  
17/4/78*

*Pall Sekhia*

(31) S. 241 P

Priority 20

LOK SABHA ADMITTED STARRED QUESTION NO. 60  
FOR 22-11-1978

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

QUESTION

\*60 SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:  
SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM:

will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a treasure  
box belonging to the president of Arzee  
Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra  
Bose, was brought to India some years ago;  
(b) if so, when exactly by whom and in  
what circumstances;

(c) where and to whose custody it had  
been kept since;

ANSWER

(SHRI MORARJI DESAI)

(a) & (b) - A statement is placed  
on the Table of the House -

(a) & (b): A box said to contain  
the treasure that was salvaged  
from the aircraft in which Netaji  
Subhas Chandra Bose  
was reported to have met his  
death, was made over to the  
National Museum by the Ministry  
of External Affairs in 1953. It  
was brought to India by an  
official of Government of India  
from Tokyo under instructions  
from the then prime Minister.  
It was handed over to him  
immediately on arrival.

(c): The box is placed in a  
Diplomatic Bag which had been  
sealed by the Ministry of External  
Affairs and entrusted to the  
custody of the National Museum,  
New Delhi.

65

QUESTION

(d) whether it was opened recently;

(e) if so, when exactly, by whom  
under whose orders;

(f) the reasons for opening the  
box;

(g) the names of persons who were  
present when the box was opened;

ANSWER

(d) yes.

29th October 1978

(e) on 9/10/1978, in the presence  
of the following officers:

- (1) Shri A.S. Gill, Additional  
Secretary, Deptt. of Culture.
- (2) Shri M.N. Deshpande, Director  
General, Archaeological Survey  
of India.
- (3) Shri C. Sivaramamurti, Former  
Director, National Museum.
- (4) Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant  
Director, National Museum.
- (5) Shri I.D. Mathur, Keeper(L&E)  
National Museum.
- (6) Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director,  
National Museum.

Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director  
(Establishment) and Shri Atish Sinh  
Under Secretary, of the Ministry of  
External Affairs, joined later and  
left before the contents were sealed  
again.

The box was opened under instruc-  
tions of the prime Minister.

(f) To verify the observations made  
in Chapter VI of <sup>Shri</sup> Shah Nawaz Khan's  
Report about the contents of the  
box.

covered by answer to  
(g) please refer to reply under (e)  
xx above. part (e) above.

QUESTION

(h) the description of the box, and  
of the method or techniques by which  
it was opened;

(i) the detailed inventory of the  
contents of the box;

(j) whether the box is lying open  
with the contents taken out or  
whether the contents have been  
replaced and the box re-closed;

(k) where the box is now kept;

(l) whether the box and its contents  
are available for observation and  
inspection by Members of Parliament;  
and

(m) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

(h) The seal of the cloth bag contain-  
ing the box was opened and the bag seen  
to contain a steel suitcase. The suit-  
case was opened with the key tied to  
the seal of the Diplomatic Bag.

(i) The box was found to contain (a) ~~1~~<sup>thirteen</sup> packages in yellow envelopes (b) ~~2~~<sup>two</sup> in  
brown paper (c) ~~1~~<sup>one</sup> in a small gunny bag  
(d) ~~1~~<sup>one</sup> in a cloth bag, making a total of  
~~Seventeen~~<sup>17</sup> packages, the contents of ~~the~~<sup>which</sup>  
~~packages~~ were medals, rings, chains,  
wrist watches, ear-rings, pendants, ear-studs,  
brooches, bangles, fragments of stones,  
shirt buttons, Signet rings, nose-ring  
stones, iron nail etc. and other miscelle-  
neous items almost all of which are in damaged  
and Chowed condition. ~~The total number of~~

(j) The contents of the box were  
placed inside the suitcase and bag, and  
once again sealed with the seal of the  
National Museum.

(k) In the National Museum

(l) & (m): The box has been re-sealed  
with the contents and hence they are  
not available for observation and  
inspection.

46  
364.03  
3493.22  
3496.5  
13491.25

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER, 1973

TREASURE BOX BELONGING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

\*60. SHRI HARI VISHNU KANATH:  
SHRI SUJENDRA BINRAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

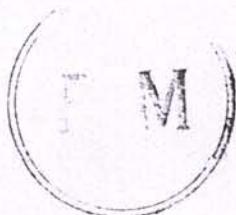
- (a) whether it is a fact that a treasure box belonging to the President of Arzee Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was brought to India some years ago;
- (b) if so, when exactly, by whom and in what circumstances;
- (c) where and to whose custody it had been kept since;
- (d) whether it was opened recently;
- (e) if so, when exactly, by whom under whose orders;
- (f) the reasons for opening the box;
- (g) the names of persons who were present when the box was opened;
- (h) the description of the box, and of the method or techniques by which it was opened;
- (i) the detailed inventory of the contents of the box;
- (j) whether the box is lying open with the contents taken out or whether the contents have been replaced and the box re-closed;
- (k) where the box is now kept;
- (l) whether the box and its contents are available for observation and inspection by Members of Parliament; and

48

- 2 -

(m) if not, the reasons therefor?

A. N. S. W. E. R.



PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):

(a) to (m): A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(Answered).  
(Not for circulation).

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE IN ANSWER  
TO LOK SABHA STATED QUESTION NO. 60 FOR 22-11-1978

69

(a) whether it is a fact that a treasure box belonging to the President of Arzee Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was brought to India some years ago;

(b) if so, when exactly, by whom and in what circumstances;

(c) where and to whose custody it had been kept since;

(d) whether it was opened recently;

(e) if so, when exactly, by whom under whose orders;

(a) & (b): A box said to contain the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was reported to have met his death was brought to Delhi from Tokyo by an official of the Government of India under instructions from the then Prime Minister in November 1952. It was handed over to him immediately on arrival and was retained by the Ministry of External Affairs temporarily.

(c) The box, which is placed in a diplomatic bag sealed by the Ministry of External Affairs, was entrusted on 30th December 1953 to the National Museum, New Delhi, for safe custody, and has remained with the National Museum since then.

(d) Yes.

(e) & (g): On 9th October, 1978 in the presence of the following Officers:

(1) Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Deptt. of Culture.

50

- (2) Shri M.N. Deshpande, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.
- (3) Shri C. Sivaramamurti, Former Director, National Museum.
- (4) Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant Director, National Museum.
- (5) Shri I.D. Mathur, Keeper(L&E) National Museum.
- (6) Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum.

Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director (Establishment) and Shri Atish Sinha, Under Secretary, of the Ministry of External Affairs, joined later and left before the contents were sealed again. The box was opened under instructions of the Prime Minister.

(f) the reasons for opening the box;

(f) To verify the observations made in Chapter VI of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan's Report about the contents of the box.

(g) the names of persons who were present when the box was opened;

(h) the description of the box, and of the method or techniques by which it was opened;

(h) The seal of the cloth bag containing the box was opened and the bag seen to contain a steel suitcase. The suitcase was opened with the key tied to the seal of the Diplomatic bag.

(i) the detailed inventory of the contents of the box;

(i) The box was found to contain seventeen packages, the contents of which were medals, rings, chains, wrist watches, car-rings, pendants, ear-studs, brooches, bangles, fragments of stones, shirt buttons, Signet rings, nose-ring stones, iron nail and other miscellaneous items almost all of which are in damaged and charred condition. The net weight of the articles, excluding weight of wrappers was found to be 13491.25 grammes. An inventory has been prepared.

(j) whether the box is lying open with the contents taken out or whether the contents have been replaced and the box re-closed;

(j) The contents of the box were placed inside the suitcase and bag, and once again sealed with the seal of the National Museum.

(k) where the box is now kept;

(k) In the National Museum.

(l) whether the box and its contents are available for observation and inspection by Members of Parliament; and

(l) & (m): The box has been re-sealed with the contents and hence they are not available for inspection.

(m) if not, the reasons therefor?

.....

Material for Supplementaries

The question seeks detailed information as to whether a treasure box belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was brought to India some years ago and in what circumstances, its custody since then and whether the box was recently opened and details thereof.

Receipt of the treasure box in India

- 2.1 In 1951 the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo was contacted by some Indians who were associated with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. They informed him that they were in possession of some gold and jewellery which, they stated, had been collected from the plane which crashed with Netaji. The Head of the Indian Liaison Mission was also informed that in addition to the gold and jewellery, they were also in possession of yen 20,000 (then equivalent to Rs.265 and annas 10 only).
- 2.2 On instructions from the then prime Minister, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo kept this gold, jewellery and cash in our Mission until further instructions.
- 2.3 After the signing of the peace Treaty with Japan, these articles were sent to Delhi in November 1952 through an official of the Government of India. They were delivered to the Ministry of External Affairs, who retained them temporarily. On December 30, 1953 the gold and jewellery were handed over to the National Museum for safe custody. The cash amounting to Rs.265 and annas 10 was, with the approval of the then prime Minister, transferred to the INA Relief Fund on December 16, 1954.

Observations of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee and the Khosla Committee.

- 3.1 The Netaji Inquiry Committee under the Shah Nawaz Khan has made certain observations on the treasure although this was not one of the terms of reference of the Committee. Chapter vi of the Committee's Report is devoted to this subject. According to

one witness before the Committee to the box had been tampered with, was much lighter in weight and less than half full, and that the valuables remained with Shri Ramamurthi from 1945 to 1951 (in Tokyo). According to the Committee, it was far from clear as to what was collected from the airfield after the crash of Netaji's plane, whether there was any subtraction and who took delivery of the treasure in Tokyo and when, and that it was not possible to come to any definite conclusion about the treasure. As mentioned in the preceding paragraph, eventually the treasure was brought to India and deposited with the National Museum. An extract of Chapter VI of the Committee's report is attached at appendix I.

3.2 The G.D. Khosla Committee's observations on this subject are very brief : The valuables scattered in the airfield when the plane crashed and some of the articles were damaged. whatever valuables were there were gathered and placed in a box which was sent to Tokyo along with the casket containing Netaji's ashes; this box was taken charge of by Mr. Ramamurthi and handed over to the Indian Mission in Tokyo.

3.3 The Shah Nawaz Khan Committee had the box containing the treasure opened and examined the contents twice. According to the Committee the estimated value of the contents (then) was Rs.1 lakh.

4.1 In the context of these observations which were brought to prime minister's notice, he wished to know whether the treasure box was still in the National Museum and what the contents and the value were. Accordingly the Department of Culture was asked to have the box opened and the contents evaluated.

5.1.1. The sealed diplomatic bag containing the INA treasure was opened on 9th October 1978 under instructions of Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Department of Culture in the presence of the

prime  
Minister's  
Orders to  
open the  
box and  
evaluate  
contents

Opening  
of the box  
and evalua-  
tion of  
contents

54

following:-

1. Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary
2. Shri M.N. Deshpande, DG, Archaeological Survey of India
3. Shri C. Sivaramamurti, former Director, National Museum
4. Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant Director, National Museum.
5. Shri I.B. Mathur, Keeper (L&E), National Museum
6. Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum.

5.1.2 Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director (Establishment) and Shri Atish Sinha, Under Secretary respectively of the Ministry of External Affairs joined later and left before the contents were sealed again.

5.2.1 The seal of the cloth bag was broken and the bag was seen to contain a steel suitcase. The suitcase was thereupon opened with the key tied to the seal with the diplomatic bag and it was found to contain (a) 13 packages in yellow envelopes, (b) 2 brown paper, (c) 1 in a small gunny bag and (d) 1 in a cloth bag, making a total of 17 packages. The individual packages had not been sealed; but the small gunny bag and the small cloth bag and 2 brown packages bearing nos. 2 and 6 respectively, and 4 yellow envelopes, bearing nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5 were found tied simply with a string.

5.2.1. In the course of the opening, a knob of the handle of the box gave way because of the weight of the contents though the lock and seal were intact.

5.2.3. The packages were thereafter opened, one after another, in the serial order. They were also photographed in the course of the opening, showing the contents of each bag by Shri J.C. Aurora, photographer of the National Museum (~~vide album and diary~~).

5.2.4. The diplomatic bag contained a Pan American World Airways luggage identification tag in the name of "DAMIE" with a rubber stamp to say "This bag weighed at Tokyo".

55

5.3 The contents of the packages are described below. They were all found in damaged condition owing to burning, as well as twisted, sometimes broken, and many of them formed into lumps or conglomerates. All the wrist watches are badly charred. All of the materials, except the contents of package No.15 are in charred condition, obviously due to burning.

package No.1:

The contents(damaged) are mostly rings of gold without stones and approximately of 16 to 22 carat. All the objects have turned black.

1. Rings and portions of Rings	114	
2. Miscellaneous pieces(non-rings)	6	(Total net weight 389.5 grams).
Total:	120	

package No.2:

The contents(damaged) are mostly bracelets, i.e., Churis and Karas, besides

1. watches (completely damaged)
  2. Brooches, including one in the shape of a Charkha
  3. pendants
  4. Metals
  5. A lid of a golden case
  6. Chain of a necklace in 2 portions and
  7. Insignificant portions of other materials
- (Total net weight 3.054 kg  
On one piece of bangle there were 2 stones fixed.

package No.3

The contents (damaged) are:

1. coins
2. Charm pendants
3. Bangles
4. Shield-shaped discs for necklace
5. lower part of a golden case of oval shape
6. Bangles - 8
7. Miscellaneous pieces
8. 2 pieces coin of 1942

The contents (damaged) include an American gold coin mounted as a pendant, a French 5 francs gold coin mounted as a button and one Victoria coin of 1876. (Total net weight 318 grams).

Package No.4:

The contents (damaged) are;

1.	Medal showing the etched figure of an owl with wings outspread. It is damaged and a part of it is missing.	-	1
2.	Rings	-	2
3.	Chain for a wrist watch	-	1
4.	pendant with round (ghungru) balls	-	1
5.	Gadrooned beads of a mala (necklace)	-	36
6.	Ear-rings (studs)	-	33
7.	Miscellaneous pieces (These comprise 2 gold pieces, 1 gold leaf and 4 studs)	-	16
8.	Non-gold pieces	-	4
9.	Concavo-convex beads	-	2
10.	Square table shield	-	1 (Total net
11.	Piece of glass	-	1 weight 318 g

Package No.5:

This package contains a lot of ear-studs, almost all with white settings (pearls/chemical/diamonds) and very few with red settings, though some of the settings are missing, and all of them are damaged.

Total:

Rings (fragments)

(of these 2 rings are with white settings and 2 have got enmeshed into each other)

234

- 10 (Total net weight  
628 gm)

Package No.6:

The contents (damaged) are;

1.	Non-gold medal	-	1
2.	<u>Chutis</u> and <u>Karas</u> , mostly broken	-	
3.	Medal with a portion of chain	-	1
4.	Ear-rings	-	2
5.	Ear-studs	-	1

6.	wrist watch (watch strap with watch frame)	-	2 pieces	57
7.	Crescent-shaped brooch with floral filigree work in high relief	-	1	
8.	long chain for pocket watch	-	1	
9.	piece of a chain	-	1	(Total net weight)
10.	Miscellaneous	-	15	1656.5 gms

package No.7:

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	Miscellaneous pieces		
2.	5 franc (France) pieces of 1864	-	2
3.	Shirt button studs	-	3
4.	Ear-studs		
5.	Ear-rings		
6.	pendants		
7.	fragments of objects		
8.	Nose ring with a conical floral stud		

package No.8

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	Ear-studs	-	117
2.	Rings (2 are fragmented)	-	5
3.	fragments of ornaments	-	23
4.	stones loose	-	4

(Total net weight  
812 gms)

package No.9:

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	wrist-watch straps		
2.	Neck collar		
3.	Rings (1 with <u>cabochon</u> ruby)		
4.	Ear-rings		
5.	Bangles	-	2

(Total net weight  
307.5 gms)

package No.10:

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	Ear-studs	-	97
2.	Galloping figure of horse used as charm (copper)	-	1
3.	Rings	-	7
4.	Miscellaneous	-	19
5.	fragments of stones	-	9

(Total net weight  
419.7 gms)

Total:

133

58

Package No.11

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	Rings (some with stones including blue sapphire, ruby and diamonds)	-	39
2.	Screw (non-gold)	-	1
3.	Gadrooned beads	-	1
4.	design for a rattle-shaped ear-ring	-	1
5.	Nose ring	-	1
6.	Ear stud	-	1
7.	Ear-ring hanging	-	1
			(Total net weight 101 gms)
		Total:	45

Package No.12:

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	plain signet rings (some with monograms and enamel work unset)	-	29
2.	chain	-	1
3.	Miscellaneous (these comprise)	-	11
	(1) part of a chain		
	(2) hanging ear-rings with settings		
	(3) 1 ear-stud with stone		
	(4) nose ring with setting		
	(5) fragments of ornaments		
4.	Rings with stones missing	-	8
5.	Rings set with stones, mostly white including 1 blue sapphire and 3 red stones.	-	17
			(Total net weight 205.0 gms)
		Total:	66

Package No.13:

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	cuff-links (1 pair)	-	2
2.	Rings with white setting	-	2
3.	Shirt buttons	-	10
4.	Ear studs	-	1
5.	Hanging ear-ring	-	14
6.	portion of a chain	-	1
7.	Golden screw	-	1
8.	Karna-phool	-	1
9.	Heart-shaped pendant	-	1
10.	stones	-	6
11.	Gold wire	-	1
			(Total net weight 46 gms)
		Total:	40

59

Package No.14:

The contents (damaged) are:

1. Hanging ear-rings	-	9
2. Cylindrical hollow bead with pointed spikes for neck	-	1
3. Hollow bead-cylindrical, with projections	-	1
4. Loose stones	-	6
5. Non-gold metal pieces	-	4
		(Total net weight 50.5 grams)
	Total:	<u>21</u>

Package No.15:

(Ayer's lot)

The contents are:

Gold Nuggets (only these are in good condition in the whole lot)

- 9 (24 carat)

(Total net weight 300.5 grams)

Package No.16:

(Gunny bag)

The contents (damaged) are:

1. Paper knife of copper with handle gilded of wayang motif	-	1
2. Cigarette case of silver with 4 edges studded with square blue sapphire and rubies engine-turned)	-	1
3. Iron nail	-	16
4. Drawing pin	-	1
5. Lead fragments	-	3
6. Mixed Metal	-	
7. Lump of several medals of the Azad Hind Fauj bearing the horse and rider motif	-	2
8. Non-gold wrist watch strap	-	2
9. Non-gold belt buckle with elephant motif	-	1
10. Golden <u>Churi</u>	-	1
11. Miscellaneous gold objects	-	21
12. Star-shaped metal <u>non-gold</u>	-	1
13. Frame of a wrist-watch	-	1
14. pinnacle of <u>silver</u>	-	1
15. Gilded hollow container resembling a cigarette lighter	-	1
		(Total net weight 3493.2 grams)
	Total:	<u>51</u>
16. Semi precious stones	-	<u>7</u>
	Total:	58

Package No: 17:

(Cloth bags)

The contents (damaged) are:

1.	Ashes or dust or burnt earth containing fragments of stones, bones, fragments of ornaments and hinges etc.	
2.	Azad Hind Fauj badges with pins some bearing (at least 2) the lettering 'Rani Jhansi Paltan'	- 3
3.	Watches	- 7
4.	A lump of 4 watches and a gold ring	- 5
5.	Socket for a watch	- 1
6.	portions of a watch strap <u>non-gold</u>	- 3
7.	Lid of a round box for sindoor (vermilion) of silver with a design of <u>panigrahana</u> etched on it with a Bengali inscription reading <u>chirasukhi</u>	
8.	Paper knife of copper with handle of wayang motif	- 1
9.	Star-shaped non-gold metal (white metal with an eagle motif at the top)	- 1
10.	Table spoon	- 1
11.	Butter knife bearing 2 letters in Japanese, Non-stain steel Seiki plus the name of the firm in English	- 1
12.	Silver buckle with a figure of dancing lady	- 1
13.	Lower part of a square case of silver mutilated	- 1
14.	Folding type small penknife	- 1
15.	Handle of a safety razor of Hexagonal cross-section.	- 1
16.	Compasses	- 2
17.	Divider	- 1
18.	Cigarette lighter (hollow type)	- 2
19.	Blower with three nozzles	- 1
20.	Buckles	- 4
21.	Rim in the shape of ring (non-gold)	- 1
22.	Unspent cartridge	- 1
23.	Brass case of a spent cartridge	- 1
24.	Non-descript fitting of a flask	- 1
25.	<u>Non-gold</u> finials	- 2
26.	Brass coat hook	- 1
27.	Iron nails	- 9
28.	fragments of gold pieces	- 5
29.	A non-gold buckle with enamel work showing a <u>charkha</u> and 2 flags	- 1
30.	Non-gold metal pieces	- 10
	Total:	69

(Total  
net  
weight  
966.  
gms)

5.4 The group which examined the contents of the 17 packages was assisted by Shri Sultan Singh Backliwal, an eminent Connoisseur of Gems and Jewellery and president of the Delhi Jewellers' Association and Shri Moti Chand, an Assayer, besides Capt. A. Mathews, Security Officer and Shri Aditya Narain, Dy. Keeper prehistory.

5.5.1. The contents of the packages, including the packing materials, were separately weighed after they were opened by Shri A.B. Bisht, Chemist and Shri Surendra Pal Singh, Chemical Assistant of the National Museum. It is observed that the contents of the package No.16 (gunny bag) and package No.17 (Cloth bag) are mostly non-gold pieces. The golden (non-gold) articles contained in these two packages may be estimated roughly at Rs.5,000/-

5.5.2. Package No.15 (Ayer's lot) contained 9 gold nuggets weighing 305 grams in all. The total value of these nuggets @ Rs.800/- per 10 grams for gold of 24 carat approximates to Rs.24,400 or Rs.25,000 (round figures).

5.5.3. Deducting approximately 10% to account for wastage and non-gold materials, the total weight of the first 14 packages come to (8732-873) 7859 or 7860 or 7900 grams in round figures. The cost of 7900 grams at the rate of Rs.600/- per 10 grams of 18 carat gold (granting that 18 carat would approximately represent the different varieties of gold) would come to Rs.4,74,000/-

5.5.4. Thus the total valuation would be fixed approximately at Rs.5,05,000/-

5.5.5. An accurate valuation would require the separation of the stones from the golden objects, and of the flux of the aluminium like alloy, cleaning of the gold objects, melting them and weighing them together. This does not seem to be a practical proposition, as apart from the difficulty of separating the individual objects from a conglomerate, it may not be desirable to break-up the contents. A realistic assessment in the present condition may not, therefore, be possible.

5.6. The list of packages found in the box tallies with the entries in the Accession Register of the National Museum.

A comparative statement showing the weight of jewellery in the different packages as found on inspection on 9th October 1978 and as given by the Indian Mission Tokyo when the articles were received by them as attached at Appendix-II. There are minor differences between the two sets of weights which could perhaps be ascribed to the different weighing machines used with a gap of over 27 years. In regard to two items the difference is substantial - in package 2 (charred and broken bangles pins, bracelets, buckles etc) 1978 weight is about 500 grams more than the ~~the~~ 1951 weight given by the Indian Mission, Tokyo, whereas in package 17 (Metals mostly base and dust) the 1978 weight is nearly 635 grams less than the weight given by the Indian Mission. The National Museum does not have any record of the weight of the items when received by them.

5.7. The packages were neatly packed again in envelopes tied carefully, placed inside the box and bag and once again sealed with the seal of the National Museum.

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CHAPTER VI  
TREASURE

63

ALTHOUGH in the terms of reference of the Committee, there was no mention of the treasure carried by Netaji on his last flight, in the course of their examination a number of witnesses spoke of the treasure. In fact, in Japan, to judge from newspaper articles, there was keen interest as to what happened to this treasure. In view of the public interest in the subject, and evidence given before them, the Committee feel that some mention should be made in this Report about this treasure.

2. It was the intention of Netaji to depend as little as possible on his Japanese allies, and to finance the Indian National Army from resources collected from Indian residents in South-East Asia. For this purpose, regular collection drives were made by Netaji and his lieutenants, and large funds were collected. A special committee called "Netaji Fund Committee" was established under the Minister of Revenue. Gold and other valuables were generously donated by Indians in South-East Asia. On the occasion of his Birthday in January 1945, Netaji was weighed against gold. Not only cash and valuables, but immovable properties used to be donated. Habib Sahib of Rangoon gave away at one time all his estate in landed property, cash and jewellery valued at Rupees one crore and three lakhs. In return he asked from Netaji a pair of khaki shirt and shorts, so that he might work for the Independence Movement (Page 160 of Major General A.C. Chatterjee's book India's Struggle for Freedom). The Funds of the Azad Hind Government were handled by the Azad Hind Bank. How much of the liquid assets were carried by Netaji during his retreat from Rangoon onwards, is not precisely known. Mr. Debnath Das says that at the time of the retreat from Rangoon, treasure valued at Rupees one crore, consisting mostly of ornaments and gold bars, was withdrawn from the Azad Hind Bank, and taken away packed in 17 small sealed boxes. General Phonsle says that Netaji had brought with him to Bangkok gold ornaments and cash packed in six steel boxes. The jewellery was a gift from Indians in South-East Asia. He did not see the jewellery, and had no idea of its value. Mr. Dinanath, Chairman of the Azad Hind Bank, who was interrogated by the British Intelligence soon after the end of the war, had said that on the 24th April 1945 when Netaji left Rangoon, he took with him from the Bank 140 lbs. of gold. According to Pandit Raghunath Sharma, one of the leaders of the Indian Independence League at Bangkok, Netaji took with him gold and other valuables, which were collected from the people, of a total value exceeding Rupees one crore. That some valuables were carried by Netaji with him is clear from the evidence, but from the very start doubt and discrepancies creep in as to the size and value of the treasure. Pandit Raghunath Sharma has stated that the valuables were kept in 10 or 12 steel boxes - 13" X 12" X 10"; some a little smaller than others. General Phonsle says that the contents of six steel boxes were re-packed in two canvas bags at the time of Netaji's departure. But Mr. Debnath Das has said that, before leaving Bangkok, the contents of the 17 treasure boxes mentioned by Mr. Das were re-packed in two ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ large suit-cases, 30" to 36" long. It is doubtful whether gold and ornaments of the value of Rupees one cro could be carried in two large leather suit-cases. Netaji's person

64

valet, Kundan Singh, was examined by the Committee. According to him, the treasure was packed in 4 steel cases of different sizes - 20" X 13" X 16" and 12" X 6" X6". He was present at the time when the boxes were checked before Netaji's departure from Bangkok. He says, "The boxes contained articles of jewelle which are commonly worn by Indian women such as chains of ladies watches, necklaces, bangles, bracelets, earrings, etc. They wer mostly of ladies. There were also pounds and guineas. There were some chains which had guinea pieces attached to them. There were small gold wires, but there were no gold bars . . . Besides these 4 boxes containing the treasure, Netaji's personal effects, and certain other valuable articles which he had brough from Singapore, were kept in a small leather attache case. Thes contained a gold cigarette case which was presented to Netaji by Hitler." Lt. Kuniyuka of the Hikari Kikan who was constantly in touch with Netaji mentions that he was shown the valuables the same night, and agrees with Kundan Singh, although he does not mention the number of boxes.

3. On his last visit, Netaji made heavy payments both at Singapore and Bengkok. His Japanese Secretary and Interpreter, Mr. Neishi, says that before leaving Singapore, as ordered by Netaji, he withdrew from the Japanese Bank 8 crore yens out of a loan of 10 crores from the Japanese Government. It was drawn in paper money, and spent in payments to I. N. A. and civilian personnel. Mr. Debnath Das says that on the 17th August, just before leaving Bangkok, Netaji made large last-minute gifts of 1½ million ticals to Chulalongkorn Hospital and University and sanctioned two to three months' pay to all officers and men of the I. N. A. He adds that this was not paid out of the treasure brought from Burma, but from the funds of the Thailand Indian Independence League. The same witness has said that among the baggage of Netaji was a large suitcase containing documents and currency. The picture of the last hurried days is confused. It is not known how much Netaji withdrew, how much was spent, and how much in gold and Jewellery he took with him. As documents were destroyed to avoid falling into Allied hands, reconstruction would be difficult. The only thing that can be said is that Netaji disbursed large amounts in the final stages, and took some valuables and ornaments, etc., with him. Netaji apparently did not want to take the treasure with him. According to the evidence of Pandit Raghunath Sharma, a few days previously Netaji had enquired of him whether he would take charge of the treasure to which Pandit Raghunath Sharma did not agree. Mr. Debnath Das has stated that again at Saigon Airfield Netaji proposed that he would leave the treasure behind. Mr. Debnath Das and Major Hasen did not agree to this, and so Netaji carried the valuables with him.

4. Indian and Japanese witnesses have all deposed clearly about the treasure in Saigon. The plane was held up for about half an hour, as the car carrying the boxes of valuables was delayed. All witnesses have stated that the number of cases which came out of the second car was two and they were hurriedly pushed into the plane, in spite of the protest of the pilot. General Isoda has said that Major Hasan rushed up to say that the two boxes containing presents to Netaji by 3 lakhs of Indians in East Asia had not arrived and so Netaji delayed departure by half an hour till the boxes came. General Isoda did not know what the boxes contained, but from what Major Hasan said he presumed that they contained gold and jewellery.

while most witnesses say that the boxes were leather suit-cases about 30" long, Captain Gulzara Singh and Col. Pritam Singh have said that they were wooden boxes of a smaller size. According to Mr. Negishi, he was told by some Hikari Kikan officers that Netaji's baggage included 150 kilos of gold bullion. He goes on to say that some of this treasure accompanied Fataji while the rest of it was left with the party at Saigon to meet various expenses. Be that as it may, it may be taken as conclusive, that from Saigon Netaji carried with him two large leather suit-cases about 30" long containing gold and valuables. While, as stated before, it may be discounted that the value was anything like Rupees one crore, there is no evidence on record which gives the details of the contents of the suit-cases, or any indication of their value.

5. The plane crashed at Taihoku on the 18th of August. Col. Habibur Rehman has stated that he enquired next day as to what happened to the baggage, particularly the two leather suit cases which contained gold and jewellery. He was told that the plane was completely burnt, and with it the luggage, but some charred jewellery had been salvaged, and kept in safe custody at the Military Headquarters. The collection was done under the supervision of two Japanese Officers, Major K. Sakai, Officer in charge of the aerodrome defence, and Captain Nakamura alias Yamamoto, Officer in charge of the aerodrome. According to Major Sakai, when he came to the scene two hours after the accident, he found Captain Nakamura and his men collecting articles lying on the ground. As their number was insufficient he lent 30 of his men. Captain Nakamura, on the other hand, says that on being asked by Lt. Col. Nonogaki, he asked his men to collect the valuables. He came and found Major Sakai's men under one Lt. Yamashida doing the collection. Both officers, however, agree that charred and blackened jewellery such as necklaces, rings, medals, etc., were collected. These were put in an 18-litre gasoline can, the top of which was sealed by means of strips of paper on which the officers placed their own seals. About the subsequent disposal there is a slight discrepancy. According to Major Sakai, the can of valuables was kept only one night under guard, and delivered the next day to Lt. Col. Shibusawa at the Headquarters. On the other hand, Captain Nakamura says that the can was kept for 4 or 5 days in the air-raid shelter under guard, and thereafter delivered to Lt. Col. Shibusawa. On the 5th of September, Col. Habibur Rehman was flown to Tokyo. With him went Lt. T. Sakai and Lt. Hayashida who had been detailed by the Army Headquarters, Formosa, to carry with them Netaji's ashes and his valuables. Major Sakai and Captain Nakamura alias Yamamoto have both spoken of an 18-litre gasoline can. Lt. Col. Shibusawa, Staff Officer of the Headquarters, also mentions the can. Lt. Col. T. Sakai and Lt. Hayashida who speak of a wooden box.

statement describes  
the container as 'one  
baggage as big as  
an oil can'. But  
Col. Habibur Rehman  
and →

6. The box of valuables was delivered on the evening of the 7th September at the Imperial General Headquarters, Tokyo. The Duty Officer, Major Kinoshita, who first received it, made over charge next morning to Lt. Col. Takakura. Both say that the box was a wooden box nailed down but not sealed. How a sealed gasoline can could become a nailed wooden box is not clear. According to Lt. Col. Takakura, on the 8th September morning he phoned Mr. Ramamurti who came with Mr. Ayer and took charge both of Netaji's ashes and valuables. Mr. Ramamurti

says that two or three days after his arrival in Tokyo (that would be 9th or 10th September), Col. Habibur Rehman asked him to bring the box of valuables, and Mr. Ramamurti accordingly went and brought it from the Imperial General Headquarters. The box was a heavy wooden box, and a porter was engaged to carry it. Col. Habibur Rehman says that a few days after his arrival in Tokyo, Messrs. Ayer and Ramamurti were called to the Imperial General Headquarters and the box containing the valuables was handed over to them. Mr. J. Murti corroborates his brother. Mr. Ayer does not say where the box was received, but indicates that in the last week of September he chanced upon Col. Rehman, Mr. Ramamurti and Mr. J. Murti cleaning and sorting out the charred jewellery in the house he and Col. Habibur Rehman were occupying. There are major discrepancies as to the date, and who received the box. While Mr. Ramamurti says that Col. Habibur Rehman satisfied him that the box was indeed the same box that had been packed before him at Taihoku, Col. Habibur Rehman says that the seals of the box were broken; it appeared to have been tampered with, was much lighter and only half full. The contents were found to be ornaments of gold and precious stones, all charred, mixed and fused with metals and small bits from the wreckage. They were roughly separated into three lots, according to whether they contained more gold or base metal. Afterwards they were re-pack into a box and nailed. The weight of the valuables was found to be 11 kilograms. This was noted, and a rough list was made and signed by Col. Habibur Rehman, a photostat copy of which is enclosed (Annexure I). Col. Rehman left the valuables in the charge of Mr. Ramamurti to be handed over to any authority which arose in India in succession to Netaji's Movement. At the same time, Mr. Ayer left 300 grams of gold and 20,000 yen in cash with Mr. Ramamurti with similar direction. They did this in order to avoid the valuable properties from being confiscated by the Allies.

7. Mr. Murti kept the valuables with him from 1945 to 1951. Mr. Murti did not keep the money in a Bank. When asked, he said he did this so that the Occupation authorities, who would know the assets of Japanese Banks, might not confiscate the valuables. He did not take any steps to contact any Indian authorities during all these years. In fact, there is reason to believe that he denied having the treasure with him. He made no attempt to contact even the Indian Mission in Tokyo. He says that he was in correspondence with Mr. Ayer and the latter had advised him not to take any action till the connected matter of Netaji's ashes was satisfactorily solved. Mr. Ayer came to Japan in 1951 and it was only then that Mr. Ramamurti acknowledged that the treasure with him, and expressed willingness to hand over the same to Indian Mission in Tokyo. He admitted that he had partly financed Mr. Ayer's trip to Japan. On his return to India, Mr. Ayer met the Prime Minister, and suggested that the treasure might be taken over by the Indian Government through the Indian Mission in Tokyo. The Prime Minister agreed to this and, on instruction from him, the treasure was taken over by the Indian Mission on the 24th September 1951. The First Secretary of the Mission, Mr. V.C. Trivedi signed the receipt on the copy of the

list made over by Col. Rehman to Mr. Ramamurti in 1945. On the same day, Mr. Ramamurti also handed over 300 grams of gold and 20,000 yens which had been left with him by Mr. Ayer. The valuables were again checked and weighed by the Indian Mission and the weight was found to be a little more than noted in Col. Rehman's original list.

8. The valuables were brought to India and have been kept in the National Museum at Rashtrapati Bhavan. As mentioned, the Committee inspected these valuables at the Museum. Their estimated value is Rupees one lakh. The Museum was inspected twice, and on the second occasion the Committee went along with Kundan Singh, Netaji's personal valet. As already mentioned in Chapter III, Kundan Singh identified a number of articles as belonging to Netaji. The articles found in the Museum were jewellery, and trinkets of the kind, which different witnesses have testified as gifts to Netaji from the Indian public in South-East Asia and which he carried with him on his last journey. It is evident that the charred and damaged pieces of gold and jewellery, etc., which are in the National Museum, formed part of Netaji's baggage in his last journey, which was salvaged from Taihoku Airfield and later recovered from Mr. Murti. It is also seen that what was handed over by Mr. Murti in 1951 tallied with the list signed by Col. Habibur Rehman in 1945. But it is not clear how much was carried by Netaji, and how much of it was recovered. Two suit-cases in which Netaji took the valuables were not weighed. We have only the evidence of witnesses that they were fairly heavy. Only one witness, Lt. Col. Nonogaki, has mentioned the weight as 20 kilos each. Only 11 kilograms of burnt-down jewellery mixed with base metal and ashes had been recovered. Quite clearly, the quantity that has been recovered is much less than what Netaji carried with him. There are a large number of gaps and discrepancies in the chain. It is not clear whether the plane was cordoned off immediately after the crash, and the collection of valuables begun under proper supervision. After it was collected there is discrepancy as to whether it was left for some days in an air-raid shelter, or taken next morning to the Japanese Military Headquarters at Taihoku. There is doubt as to the container. Some say it was a gasoline can, while others say that it was a wooden box. If the gasoline can was originally filled and sealed, there is no evidence to show who opened it, and why, and put the contents again in a wooden box. The wooden box that was handed over in Tokyo to Mr. Ramamurti was not sealed, but only nailed. Whereas Major Takakura says that he handed over the box to Mr. Murti and Mr. Ayer along with the ashes, Mr. Murti says that only he was asked to come and take the box of valuables a few days after taking delivery of the ashes. Col. Rehman says that Messrs. Ayer and Murti went and brought the box from the Imperial General Headquarters. According to Mr. Ayer, he was not called, but came as if by accident, while Mr. Murti, his brother, and Col. Rehman were cleaning and sorting out broken pieces of jewellery. No receipt was taken or given by the General Headquarters. While Mr. Murti says that Col. Rehman was satisfied that the box was in the same order as he had packed it in Taihoku Col. Rehman says that the box appeared to him to have been tampered with, much lighter in weight, and less than half full.

So it is far from clear as to what was collected from Taihoku Airfield, whether and when the container was changed, whether there was any subtraction, and who took delivery of it in Tokyo and when. From the evidence available to us, it is not possible to come to any definite conclusion about the treasure. If it is considered desirable to go more closely into the matter, it may be necessary to institute a separate enquiry, whose scope might well include not only the treasure that was carried by Netaji on his last journey and its recovery, but also examination of the entire assets and liabilities, in cash and kind, of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. It is, however, not certain, how far such an enquiry would be profitable after this lapse of time, especially when such records, as they were, must have been largely destroyed.

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69  
Tokyo 15/11/45

To

Sri Ram Murti,

I am leaving with you three hundred (300/-) grammes of gold and yen twenty thousand. At a proper time and place, kindly hand over to the competent national authority which will undoubtedly one day come into existence to handle affairs arising as a sequel to the movement for India's Independence led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in East Asia. The gold is in fact as I brought it from Saigon. The cash is balance after changing piastre into yen and meeting my expenses during my stay in Japan since August 22, 1945. The total in piastre and the exchange rate are shown in the bank slips.

Sd/- S. A. Ayer  
15/11/45

To

70

Sri Ram Bharti,  
Chairman, IIL, Territorial Committee,  
Japan.

Jai Hind.

I am leaving with you the following quantity of gold which was salvaged at Taiwan Formosa after the fateful air accident as a result of which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose expired at 9.00 P.M. on 18.8.45 in the hospital.

1. Comparatively pure gold in two wooden boxes and a paper wrapper	Kg.	gms.
	7 -	900
(Weight includes weight of gold and wooden boxes)		
2. One packet - Gold mixed with worthless metal, iron etc.	Kg.	gms.
	3 -	100
(Weight includes weight of gold, metal iron etc. and paper wrapper)		

2. Since this gold is mixed with other metals, etc. weight cannot be assessed at present. However, at a later date the arrangement for getting the purification of gold may please be made.

3. It is requested that this gold may please be handed over to a competent Indian authority who may be dealing with the affairs of the Indian Independence movement led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in East Asia.

Jai Hind.

Sd/- Habibur Rehman.

	Weight indicated by Indian Mission in Tokyo. <u>(24-9-1951)</u>	Weight found on Inspection on 9-10-1978
Package 1	400 grams	389.5 grams
Package 2	2 kgs. 560 grams	3.054 <del>gx</del> kgs.
Package 3	325 grams	318 grams
Package 4	325 grams	318 grams
Package 5	700 grams	628 grams
Package 6	1 kg. 700 grams	1656.5 grams
Package 7	825 grams	812 grams
Package 8	425 grams	425.6 grams
Package 9	320 grams	307.5 grams
Package 10	425 grams	419.7 grams
Package 11	105 grams	101 grams
Package 12	200 grams	205.0 grams
Package 13	50 grams	46 grams
Package 14	50 grams	50.5 grams
Package 15	300 grams	300.5 grams
Package 16	3.500 kgs.	3493.2 grams
Package 17	1.600 kgs.	9665 grams

.....XXX.....

5



(33) 56

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई बिल्डिंग-१। **SECRET**K.P. Balakrishnan  
Director (Establishment)

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NEW DELHI-11

72

No.25/4/NGO/Vol.III

21st November 1978

Subject: Advance Notice for Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No.402 regarding Netaji and INA Treasure

-:00:-

Dear Shri Sreeraman,

...

As desired by you, I am enclosing a note giving further information relating to the handing over of the "Treasure" to our Mission in Tokyo, its despatch to Delhi, safe custody in the Ministry of External Affairs and handing over to the National Museum. The information is based on our files on the subject.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

*K.P. Balakrishnan*  
(K.P. Balakrishnan)

Shri N.S. Sreeraman,  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister,  
P.M.'s Office,  
NEW DELHI.

Enc: As above

*Ans*

Ministry of External Affairs

...

Shri S.A. Ayer, Director of Publicity, Government of Bombay, visited Japan in May 1951 and met Shri K.K. Chett Head of the Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo. Shri Ayer was staying with Shri Ramamurti. Both of them were connected with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Shri Ayer proposed that the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the plane in which Netaji met his death should be sent to the Government of India for disposal. On Prime Minister's instructions, Shri Chettur was asked in September 1951 to take possession of the gold and jewellery which was in Shri Ramamurti's possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions. Accordingly, the articles were taken possession of on 24th September 1951; the receipt was signed by Shri V.C. Trivedi, the then First Secretary of the Mission. Before taking over, the valuables were weighed and a list of contents prepared. A copy of the list is enclosed.

...  
2. In October 1952 it was enquired of our Ambassador whether the above articles could be brought over to India; since our Treaty of Peace with Japan had come into force, this should be/comparatively /a easy matter. Mission proposed to send these with Shri Damle, Joint Secretary, Agriculture Ministry who was returning to India on 7.11.52. As his flight was delayed, Shri Damle reached Delhi only on the night of 11.11.52, by a PAN AM Airways flight. The box containing the valuables was taken over for safe custody by the then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs Shri Harishwar Dayal on 12.11.1952. A note on file indicates that the box "has been sealed and kept in double locked safe of the Treasurer of the Ministry of External Affairs".

3. In a minute recorded on 2.12.53, the Prime Minister instructed that the valuables should be kept carefully and that "all relics of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose should be carefully preserved in proper cases". The Ministry of Education then proposed on 7.12.1953 that the "treasure", locked in a box and sealed, should be deposited in the National Museum. On 30.12.53, the box containing the "treasure" as per list on the file was opened and the contents checked and thereafter re-locked and re-sealed with the N.G.O. seal of the Ministry of External Affairs, and handed over along with the key to Mr. J.K. Roy, Superintendent, National Museum, in the presence of Mr. A.C. Banerji of the National Museum. This note has been signed by Shri Devi Diyal, then Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, as well as by Shri J.K. Roy and Shri A.C. Banerji. The sum of Y.20,000/- (Rupees 265-10) was handed over to the

-: 2 :-

Secret

721

All India Congress Committee, New Delhi, on 16.12.1954  
vide their receipt No. 901, for transfer to I.N.A.  
Relief Fund.

---

Secret

LIST OF ITEMS TAKEN FROM MR. RAM MURTY BY THE EMBASSY OF  
 INDIA, TOKYO ON 24.9.1951 AND HANDED OVER TO THE  
 NATIONAL MUSEUM, NEW DELHI on 30.12.1953

-:00:-

75  
 W. India  
 6/3/52  
 (24.9.1951)

BUNDLE I

Package 1

Charred rings and pendants 400 grams

Package 2

Charred and broken bangles, pins, buckles etc. 2 kgs. 560 grams

Package 3

Charred and broken bangles, pendants, snuff box  
 medals, coins and rings 325 grams

Package 4

Charred necklace pieces, medals and rings 325 grams

Package 5

Charred ear-rings, nose-rings, mostly with stones 700 grams

Package 6

Charred and broken bangles and anklets 1 kg. 700 grams

Package 7

Charred and broken rings, noserings and pendants 825 grams

Package 8

Charred rings and nose-rings 425 grams

Package 9

Charred necklace, bangles, broaches & nose rings 320 grams

Package 10

Charred ear-rings with stones and rings 425 grams

Package 11

Charred rings 105 grams

Package 12

Charred rings and chain 200 grams

Package 13

Charred rings and buttons 50 grams

Package 14

Charred ear pendants 50 grams

8.410

BUNDLE II

Charred gold mixed with molten metal, iron etc. 3.500

BUNDLE III

Metal, mostly base and dust 1.600

AYER'S LOT

(1) 9 pieces of gold : 300 grams



S. B. DEPARTMENT  
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

(34) 60059

R.O. No. 21/6/72-P

मारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

गृह मन्त्रालय

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

76

No. 7 PARLI. - 110001,

November 21, 1978

2

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kindly refer to Rajya Sabha Starred question No. 402 on the subject of IMA Treasure which the Ministry of External Affairs is said to have transferred to the P.M.'s Office.

NK  
21/11  
Par. 111

2. The Ministry of External Affairs had requested us to check up whether the subject of IMA Treasure was at any stage brought to the notice of the Khosla Commission in view of para (g) of the question. A perusal of the records in this Ministry shows that whatever documents were required by the Commission were furnished by the Ministry concerned either directly or through this Ministry and the papers had, after the winding up of the Commission, been returned to the respective Ministries direct. It is not, therefore, possible to indicate how much of the records pertaining to IMA Treasures were made available to the Commission. It is however observed that the Ministry of External Affairs's file No. 25/4/NGO-51 on the subject was specifically asked for by the Commission in March, 71. Whether it was actually furnished to the Commission or not may have to be checked up with reference to the correspondence in the Ministry of External Affairs's file No. 3/551/3/70-JP and C/551/4/72-JP. Similarly file No. 28(11)/56-57-PH on the subject of "IMA Treasure" had been furnished by the P.M. Sectt. to the Commission. It was returned by the Commission and acknowledged in your D.O. No. 2/64/74-PH dated 27.7.74.

3. In view of the above and since a mention has been made to the subject in para 3.51 of its report by the Commission it appears that the records pertaining to the IMA Treasure were made available to the Commission.

4. A copy of the final answer that may be given to the House may kindly be furnished to us also for our record.

Yours sincerely,

21.11.78.

(S. B. Deo)

Sirji J.S. Freeman,  
P.G. to P.M.,  
Parl. Officer,  
New Delhi.

60062/c  
60062/c

N.S. Sreeraman  
Private Secretary to  
the Prime Minister

No. 2(64)/78-PM

December 4, 1978

Dear Shri Bandyopadhyay,

Please refer to your D.O. No. 21/52/78-I,  
regarding the Rajya Sabha Question answerd as  
unstarred No. 632 on the subject of INA treasure.

As desired by you, a copy of the answer  
given to the Question on 30-11-78 is enclosed  
for your record.

Yours sincerely,

R  
4/12

(N.S. Sreeraman)

Shri S. Bandyopadhyay,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
New Delhi.

(B6) 63

78

MOST IMMEDIATE  
NO-DAY-YET NAMED MOTION

Ministry of Education & Social Welfare  
Parliament Unit

cc

...

Subject: Lok Sabha No-Day-Yet Named Motion (No.246)  
regarding treasure of Azad Hind Government  
of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

It is understood that Prime Minister's Office has answered two Questions in the Parliament on the above mentioned subject. Therefore, the Lok Sabha No-Day-Yet named Motion No.246 regarding treasure of Azad Hind Government of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose may kindly be dealt with by them. Department of Parliamentary Affairs U.O.No.F.15(1)/78-Leg. dated 6th December, 1978, is sent herewith for necessary action.

2. It is requested that Department of Parliamentary Affairs may kindly be informed of the acceptance of the above motion under intimation to this Ministry.

Pd. put up with  
paper on the questions  
answered by us on  
this subject.  
R.D.R.  
7/12

I.U. Ramchandani  
(I.U. Ramchandani)  
Deputy Secretary

Prime Minister's Office (Shri N.S.Brenivasan, P.S.to P.M  
M of Education & S.W.U.O.No.H.11017/1/78-PU, dt.7.12.78

Poly - 111

16/12  
G. S. G. 6/11

*M.S. Subramanian,*  
DEA(C-I)

79

IMMEDIATE

DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Subject:- Lok Sabha No-Day-Yet-Named Motion (No. 246) regarding treasure of Azad Hindi Government of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The following motion given notice of by Shri Prof. Samar Guha has been admitted by Speaker under Rule 189 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha:-

"That this House do consider the facts and matters relating to the missing treasure of the Azad Hindi Government of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose."

The Ministry/Department of Education and Social Welfare and Culture may kindly see and advise if they have any objection to this motion being set down for discussion in the current/ensuing session of the Lok Sabha. In case the discussion is not acceptable to the Ministry/Department, they may kindly convey the reasons therefor within one week of the receipt of this note failing which it will be presumed that the Ministry/Department have no objection. Time will be provided for the discussion on one of the question days of the Ministry subject to exigencies of other Government Business.

This may kindly be treated as IMMEDIATE

*has updt*  
(P.V. Pasupathy)  
Under Secretary

The Ministry/Department of Education and Social Welfare and Culture  
Parliament Section  
DPA U.O.No. F.15(1)/78-Leg., dated the 6.12.1978

## संसदीय कार्य विभाग

विषय:-

के संबंध में लोक सभा का अनियत दिन वाला प्रावेदन है।

श्री . . . . . द्वारा सूचित किए गए  
 निम्नलिखित प्रावेदन को लोक सभा के प्रक्रिया और कार्य संचालन संबंधी  
 नियम के नियम १८९ के अधीन अध्यक्ष द्वारा स्वीकार कर लिया गया है:-

मंत्रालय/विभाग कृपया देखें और सूचित  
 करें कि क्या उन्हें इस प्रावेदन को लोक सभा के चालू /आगामी सत्र में  
 चर्चा के लिए रखने में कोई आपत्ति है। यदि मंत्रालय/विभाग को चर्चा  
 स्वीकार्य नहीं है तो उसके कारणों की सूचना इस नोट की प्राप्ति के एक  
 सप्ताह के भीतर भेजने की कृपा करें जिसके अभाव में यह माल लिया जाएगा  
 कि मंत्रालय/विभाग को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। चर्चा के लिए समय की  
 व्यवस्था अन्य सरकारी कार्य की आवश्यकता के अधीन रहते हुए, मंत्रालय  
 के प्रश्न के लिए नियत किसी दिन की जाएगी।

इस पर तुरन्त कार्रवाई करने की कृपा करें।

१०वीं पशुपति  
 अवर सचिव  
 टेलीफोन: ३७७७२८

*(37)* *64* MOST IMMEDIATE

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

81

Subject:- Lok Sabha No-Day-Yet-Named Motion (No.246)  
regarding treasure of Azad Hind Government  
of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

*for b3*

The Ministry of Education & Social Welfare have  
forwarded to us the Department of Parl. Affairs u.o. No.F.15(1)/  
78-Leg. dated the 6.12.78 on the above subject and have  
requested us to deal with it.

In this connection, the attention of the Deptt.  
of Parl. Affairs is invited to the detailed answer given by  
the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha to Starred Question No.60  
on the 22nd November 1978 which covers almost all aspects of  
the issue. This subject has also been touched up in the  
Reports of the Netaji Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship  
of Shri Shah Nawaz Khan and the Justice Khosla Commission of  
Enquiry. Government have no other information on this subject.

It is, therefore, considered that no useful purpose  
would be served by having the issue discussed through a  
motion, and we would suggest that the motion be not set down  
for discussion in the Lok Sabha.

*00*

*12/12*

PS(S)

*Ok*

Dept. of Parl. Affairs (Shri P.V.Pasupathy - U.S.)

P.M's Office u.o. NaF2 (64) 78-PM

dated: 12-12-78

*21/12/78*  
*Issued*  
*12/12/78*  
*Copy to Parliament Section, P.M's Office*

*Copy forwarded to Ministry of Education & SW  
(Shri I.U.Ramchandani, Dy. Secy) with reference to their  
u.o. No.H.11017/1/78-PU dated 7-12-78*

*Q*  
*12/12/78.*

*n* *13/1*  
*(N.S.Greeraman)*  
*PS to PM*

65  
GPO 938

82

Yours 28492

December 13, 1978

Dear Shri Subramaniam Swamy,

In August you had written to the Prime Minister about the treasure reported to have been salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose is alleged to have met his death. We have consulted Shri Damle and his reply is as follows:-

F/D  
In November 1952 he returned to India from Tokyo where he had gone on an official business. Dr. Abdul Raof was our Ambassador in Tokyo and at the airport he gave a steel attache case which was sealed and told Mr. Damle to deliver it to Panditji. On arrival at the airport at Palam he was met by Shri R.K. Nehru but Shri Damle told him that the parcel would be delivered to Panditji as desired by the Ambassador. Shri Damle accordingly took the parcel to the then Prime Minister where it was opened by him in his presence. The contents were charred jewellery which was covered with soot. After having delivered it, Shri Damle took leave and left.

As you are probably aware, the Prime Minister had the box which was deposited in the National Museum opened and its contents verified. The box has been re-sealed and is in the custody of the National Museum.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

V.  
U.

(V. Shankar)

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, M.P.,  
22, Rajendra Prasad Road,  
NEW DELHI-110001.

GPO 67

1111 (P.M. Letter to Shri Shankar  
Swamy asuptal government)  
(Mr. H.M.)

2 (54)

PS. 91243/26  
Date... 22/12/78

Enc (2)

SECRET.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

83

Subject:- INA TREASURE.

....

As desired by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, a copy of the detailed note on the "INA Treasure" prepared in this Ministry is sent herewith.

*K.P.Balakrishnan*

( K.P.Balakrishnan.)  
Director (Establishment)

Prime Minister's Secretariat (Shri V. Shankar)  
MEA U.O.NO.25/4/NGO-VOL.III

Dt. 21.12.1978

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22/12*

*SECRET*

*Khal  
22/12*

*QSS* *100 am* *26/12/78*

*Pall 111*

INA TREASURE

There is a large degree of uncertainty regarding the early history of the "INA Treasure" from the time Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose left Rangoon in April 1945, carrying a number of valuables with him to the time that certain valuables were handed over to the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo on 24th September, 1951 by Shri Ram Murthy, one of Netaji's former associates. Netaji had received sizeable donations from Indian residents in South East Asia, in the form of cash and valuables for financing the INA. On the occasion of his birthday in January 1945 he was weighed against gold. How much of the liquid assets were carried by Netaji during his retreat from Rangoon onwards cannot be ascertained precisely, as was noted by the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956. Witnesses examined by the Committee gave widely differing versions of the contents and the value of the treasure carried by Netaji. Apart from differing versions with regard to the number of boxes accompanying him, there was the testimony of one witness to the effect that Netaji had taken 140 lbs. of gold with him and that of another who estimated the valuables carried at Rs.1 crore. One witness whose testimony received some independent corroboration by a Japanese witness was Netaji's personal valet who was apparently present at the time when the boxes containing the valuables were checked before Netaji's departure from Bangkok in August 1945. According to this witness there were four steel cases which contained articles of jewellery commonly worn by Indian women, Pounds and Guineas and some gold wires. In addition to these, four boxes, there was also a small leather

personal effects and certain other valuable

Lit

attache case containing Netaji's articles he had brought from Singapore. The Netaji Enquiry Committee found that during his last visit to Singapore and Bangkok, Netaji had disbursed large amounts. The Committee was unable to get any accurate picture of what Netaji carried with him at the time of his departure from Bangkok but contended that some valuables such as ornaments were certainly carried by him. The Committee also found it difficult to reconstruct the events as relevant documents had been destroyed to void falling <sup>in</sup> to the Allied hands. Some witnesses had testified that Netaji was not keen on taking the treasure with him and had wanted to leave <sup>in</sup> Bangkok or Saigon but since ~~were~~ as willing to take charge of it, he carried the valuables with him.

2. A number of witnesses had testified to seeing the boxes containing the treasure at the Saigon Airfield just before Netaji's outward flight in the afternoon of 17th August 1945. While, here, again there are widely differing versions, the Committee has taken as conclusive the fact that Netaji carried from Saigon with him "two large leather suit-cases about 30" long containing gold and valuables. While the committee could not get any estimates of the value of the contents of the suit-cases, the feeling is that it could not be anywhere near the Rs.1 crore mentioned by one witness.

3. After the plane crash at Taihoku on the 18th August, Col. Habibur Rahman had enquired the next day from Japanese officers as to what had happened to the baggage, particularly the two leather suit-cases containing valuables. He was told that, while much of the baggage had been burnt, some charred jewellery had been salvaged from the ground and kept in safe custody at the Military Headquarters. The Committee found that

there was some discrepancy in the accounts given by the Japanese officers who took part in this operation; while one of them stated that the valuables, which were sealed in a gasoline can, had been kept under guard for only one night in the airfield before delivery to Military Headquarters, another witness stated that it had been kept for four or five days in the air-raid shelter under guard before delivery to Headquarters. It is, however, certain that the valuables were delivered to the Imperial General Headquarters, Tokyo, on 7th September. The Officers who took charge of these as well as Col. Habibur Rahman mentioned that the valuables were in a nailed wooden box which was not sealed; this is a departure from the earlier accounts which mentioned a sealed gaseoline can. It would appear that on 9th or 10th September the box containing valuables was taken charge of by Shri Ram Murthy from the Imperial General Headquarters; Shri Ayer was possibly present. The Committee found some discrepancy in the statements of Col. Habibur Rahman, Shri Ram Murthy and Shri Ayer in regard to the circumstances surrounding the handing over the box at the Headquarters; in particular the discrepancies related to the date of delivery and who took charge of the box. According to Col. Habibur Rahman, the seals of the box containing the valuables were found to be broken at the time of delivery; further it appeared to have been tampered with and was much lighter and only half full. The contents were found to be ornaments of gold and jewellery, all charred, mixed and fused with metals and small nits from the wreckage. They were roughly separated into three lots according to whether they contained more gold or base metal. Afterwards, they were re-packed in a box and nailed. The weight of the valuables was found to be

11 kgs. This was noted and a rough list was made and signed by Col.Habibur Rahman. A photocopy of the note is available. Col.Rahman left the valuables in the authority which arose in India in succession to Netaji's movements. At the same time, Shri Ayer left 300 gms. of gold and 20,000 Yens in cash with Shri Ram Murthy with similar direction. The list prepared by Col.Habibur Rahman is as follows:

i) Comparatively pure gold in two wooden boxes and paper wrapper (weight includes weight of gold and wooden boxes)	... 7 Kg. 900 gms.
ii) One packet of gold mixed with molten metal,iron etc.(weight includes weight of gold,metal iron etc.the paper wrapper)	... 3 Kgs.100 gms.
Total	... 11 Kgs.

4. Shri Ram Murthy kept the valuables and cash with him from 1945 to 1951; it was not kept in a bank as he feared that it might be confiscated by the Occupation authorities. He also did not take any steps to contact any Indian authorities during all these years. The Committee found reason to believe that he denied having the treasure with him; according to Shri Ram Murthy, Shri Ayer had advised him not to take any action till the connected matters of Netaji's ashes was satisfactorily solved. During this period there were allegations against Shri Ram Murthy in regard to misappropriation of the funds of the late Indian Independence League of which he was the President in Japan as well as the valuables carried by Netaji; Shri Ayer's name had also been associated with these charges. The matter had been referred to the Ministry of External Affairs by the then Head of the Liaison Mission in

Tokyo Shri Rama Rao in December 1947. Subsequent Heads of Missions had also reported on suspicions regarding misappropriation on the part of Shri Rama Murthy; the fact that he had ~~denied~~ knowledge of existence of the treasure only strengthened the suspicions. In 1951, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur had reported that Shri Ram Murthy had become affluent overnight in 1946, "when his compatriots were on the verge of starvation and misery".

5. In 1951, Shri Ayer who was then Director of Publicity in the then Government of Bombay proceeded to Tokyo on what was claimed to be a holiday trip. In Tokyo, he stayed with Shri Ram Murthy and it came to light subsequently that Shri Ram Murthy had also financed Shri Ayer's trip. While in Tokyo, Shri Ayer met the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission Shri Chettur on 29th May 1951 and stated that one of the objectives of his 'Mission' to Tokyo was the recovery of the gold and jewellery which had been collected from the place in which Netaji met his death. He informed Shri Chettur that some part of Netaji's collections had been saved such as fused and molten gold ornaments, which in his opinion was worth about Rs.1 lakh. He dismissed local rumours put the value of the collection at several millions of rupees. He also informed Shri Chettur that Col. Habibur Rahman and himself had compiled a detailed list of the items in 1945 and he wanted to check these lists before the valuables could be sent to India; he handed over to Shri Chettur photostat copies of letters written by Col. Habibur Rahman and by himself to

At the time when the valuables, some gold and Yen 20000/- had been left with Shri. Ram Murthy Shri Ram Murthy in 1945. He suggested that the valuables be sent to Delhi by Diplomatic bag in small lots to be disposed of ~~by~~ by the government of India in such a manner as it deemed fit.

It would appear from subsequent records that Shri Ayer had inspected the valuables on 6th June 1951 while in Tokyo, and compared the list with the original list left by Col. Habibur Rahman. The following details have been given in hand-written note by him :-

- |     |   |          |
|-----|---|----------|
| i)  | Comparatively pure gold in papers bundles only (the increase in weight is apparently due to different scales used for weighing) | 8.5 kgs. |
| ii) | Gold mixed with molten metal etc.   | 3.0 kgs. |

Total .... 11.5 kgs.

6. It is interesting to note that there was no mention in the new list of two wooden boxes, whose weight had also included in the weight as assessed by Col. Habibur Rahman. If one takes this into account, the increase in weight during second weighing by Shri Ayer would be even more substantial.

7. Shri Chettur was instructed by the Government of India to take over the valuables should Shri Ayer hand them over to the Mission. Subsequently, instructions were sent out to the effect that the Mission's endeavour should be to get possession of all the treasure on behalf of Government and to keep it in safe custody pending instructions on its disposal. However, Shri Ayer did not hand over the treasure to the Mission during his visit and left Tokyo for India on 11th June, 1951.

8. On his return to India, Shri Ayer met the Prime Minister in September, 1951. Subsequently, instructions from Prime Minister, our Mission in Tokyo was asked on 23rd September, 1951 to take over from Shri Ram Murthy all the INA treasure in his possession and keep it in the Mission until further instructions.

90.

The Mission was also asked to intimate the nature and quantity of treasure. On 24th September 1951, the First Secretary of the Mission Shri V.C.Trivedi and the Registrar went to Shri Ram Murthy's house and took possession of the various packages after opening and weighing them with the Mission's scales in the presence of Shri Ram Murthy's wife and his wife. It was found that there were three cloth bundles containing valuables, a paper package containing gold pieces and Yen 20,000 in cash. The list prepared by the Mission indicating the weights of various packages was sent to the Ministry. Subsequently, there is record of the valuables having been weighed twice; one in the Ministry of External Affairs soon after their arrival in India (the date is not specified but it is somewhere around 1.12.1952) and lastly in the National Museum on instructions of Prime Minister on 9.10.78. The following table has been prepared to compare the weights of individual items as found on the three occasions:-

	Weight indicated by Indian Mission in Tokyo at the time of taking over <u>(24.9.1951)</u>	Weight found on inspection in MEA after arrival <u>(1.12.1952)?</u>	Weight found on inspection on 9.10.78
<u>BUNDLE I</u>			
Package 1	400 gms.	399.90 gms.	389.5 gms.
Package 2	2 Kgs. 560 gms	2 Kgs. 447.07 gms	3.054 Kgs.
Package 3	325 gms	315.70 gms	318 gms.
Package 4	325 gms	314.60 gms	318 gms
Package 5	700 gms	624.32 gms	628 gms
Package 6	1 kg. 700 gms	1 kg. 643.65 gms	1656.5 gms
Package 7	825 gms	797.05 gms	812 gms
Package 8	425 gms	424.75 gms	425.6 gms
Package 9	320 gms	303.55 gms	307.5 gms
Package 10	425 gms	415.55 gms	419.7 gms
Package 11	105 gms	108.95 gms	101 gms
Package 12	200 gms	201.55 gms	205.0 gms
Package 13	50 gms	44.22 gms	46 gms
Package 14	50 gms	48.05 gms	50.5 gms.
<u>BUNDLE II</u>			
	15 16	3,500 kgs. 1,600 kgs	3,442 gms Not weighed
17. <u>Ayer's let</u>	Nine pieces of gold	300 gms	298.75 gms
			300.05 gms
			.....8/-

91

At the time of taking over of the valuables in Tokyo Shri Chettur pointed out that the weight as found by the Mission was more than what was shown in Col. Habibur Rahman's letter. The latter had also not mentioned the third package containing dust and base metal; according to Shri Ram Murthy this had been omitted as it was practically worthless. Shri Chettur found two suspicious circumstances, one that the pieces of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy appeared to be bright and completely untarnished and did not appear to have been kept in custody for nearly six years as was claimed. Shri Ayer, who was supposed to have left the gold pieces with Shri Ram Murthy in 1945 had asserted that the pieces were exactly in the form in which he had brought them from Saigon. Further, the 20,000 Yen handed over to the Mission was in the notes then current and not in the notes current in 1945. Shri Chettur was at that time able to get a confidential report from the Japanese Foreign Ministry on the question of the treasure. According to this, Netaji had substantial quantity of gold ornaments and precious stones suit-in Saigon but was allowed to carry only two/cases on the ill fated flight. Even those two suit-cases, according to Shri Chettur, must have carried very much more than what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission in 1951. There were also uncertainties surrounding the fate of the bulk of the treasure which Netaji had left in Saigon itself; that it was substantial is indicated by the fact that on 26th January 1945, Netaji had been weighed against gold. Against this background, Shri Chettur felt that it was difficult to believe that the 300 grams of gold handed over by Shri Ram Murthy to the Mission represented all that Shri Ayer had brought from Saigon. Shri Chettur drew the conclusion that Shri Ayer,

92

apprehensive of the early conclusion of the Peace Treaty, had come to Tokyo to "divide the loot and salve his and Shri Ram Murthy's conscience by the handing over of a small quantity to the Government in the hope that by doing so, he would also succeed in driving a red herring across the trail".

10. The Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 has not drawn any specific conclusions on whether the treasure had been misappropriated, and if so, by whom. The Committee concluded that the charred and damaged pieces of gold and jewellery etc. which are in the National Museum formed a part of Netaji's baggage in his last journey and were salvaged from the Taihoku Airport and later recovered from Shri Ram Murthy. The Committee also found that what was handed over by Shri Ram Murthy in 1951 tallied with the list signed by Col. Habibur Rahman. But the Committee could reach no conclusion on how much of valuables were carried by Netaji in his last flight and how much of it was recovered, particularly since the two suit-cases said to have been taken by Netaji had not been weighed; the Committee was of the view that the quantity that has been recovered was much less than all that Netaji carried with him. In view of the discrepancies in statements relating to the conclusion of the valuables from Taihoku Airport, their subsequent custody and handing over to Netaji's associates, the Committee expressed the opinion that "it was far from clear as to what was collected from Taihoku Airport, whether and when the container was changed, whether there was any subtraction and who took delivery of it in Tokyo and when". The Committee suggested that in case a separate inquiry into this was considered necessary, such an inquiry would have to cover not only the treasure carried by Netaji on his last journey but also examination of the entire assets and liabilities, in cash and kind, of the Provisional

93

Government of Azad Hind. The Committee was however was not sure whether such an inquiry would serve any purpose after the lapse of time especially since whatever records there might have been, had been destroyed.

11. The one-man Inquiry Commission headed Justice Khosla <sup>not</sup> in Report dated 30th June 1974 did/go into any detail on the subject of the treasure. The Commission had not specifically enquired into this matter. The Commission has noted a suggestion made to it that part of the treasure had been misappropriated by Shri Ram Murthy and his brother J.Murthy. But the Commission could not find any satisfactory proof of such misappropriation and felt that "no useful purpose could be served by pursuing a quest which is not likely to yield anything definite or worthwhile".

12. In October 1951, our Ambassador in Tokyo was asked whether the treasure could now be brought over to India as our Peace treaty with Japan had come into force. The Mission proposed on 7th October 1952 that the valuables be sent with Shri Damle Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, who was on a visit to Tokyo at that time and was returning to India on 7th November. The Mission felt that it was not necessary to refer the matter to the Japanese Government who had evinced no interest in the matter. Due to delay in the flight Shri Damle, reached Delhi on the 10th evening by PANAM flight No. 3. At the request of Ministry of External Affairs, instructions were issued to the Customs examination under the 'note and pass' procedure on the understanding that the articles would be assessed later and customs duty paid by the Ministry of External Affairs. An import permit from the Reserve Bank of India was also not insisted upon.

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13. According to the records, Shri Damle on arrival delivered the valuables to Shri H. Dayal, then Joint Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The suitcases was kept in his cabinet. Thereafter, on an unspecified date, the valuables were checked and weighed. The results of the weighing are in the table given earlier (it is to be noted that neither the earlier list sent by our Mission in Tokyo indicating the weights as found at the time of taking over of valuables from Shri Ram Murthy nor the list as prepared in the Ministry after arrival of the items here are signed or authenticated). The valuables were considered to be worth about Rs.90,000 at that time; this is presumably based on a message from the Mission in Tokyo before despatch of the goods that they might be incurred for Rs.90,000/- Prime Minister inspected the articles on 9.1.1953. He minuted as follows:-

"I saw this treasure. It made a poor show. Apart from some gold pieces, it consisted of charred remains of some rather cheap jewellery chiefly some silver and gold articles, all broken up. I think that this should be kept as it is. Apart from everything else, it is some evidence of the aircraft accident and subsequent fire".

14. The question of exempting the valuables from Customs duty was taken up with the Ministry of Finance. It was suggested to the Ministry of External Affairs that in case these were considered as articles of historical value which would be kept in a public place, exemption could be given. This was confirmed by the Ministry and exemption from customs duty was accorded.

15. As regards the custody of the box containing valuable this was taken over by Shri Devi Dyal, Deputy Secretary(Administration) on 26th September, 1953 and deposited in the Treasurer's safe. On 5th October 1953, the box was double

95

sealed with an NGO seal and a PM's Secretariat seal in presence of Deputy Secretary(Administration). It is seen from a subsequent note that the box containing the valuables had been put inside a sealed bag and deposited in the cash chest of the Ministry.

16. The Ministry of External Affairs was in touch with the PM's Secretariat in regard to the eventual disposal of these valuables. On 12.11.1953 the Prime Minister suggested that the Ministry of Education take charge of the treasure after inspection. Following this, Shri Humayun Kabir of the Ministry of Education, Shri J.K.Roy, Superintendent: Central Asian Antiquities Museum (National Museum) and Joint Secretary(Administration), Ministry of External Affairs, inspected the treasure on 27.11.1953. Thereafter Shri Kabir recorded a note to the effect that the items were not suitable for exhibition and therefore these could best be handed over to the family of Netaji Bose, if necessary, after a brief exhibition in Delhi. The then Minister of Education, Maulana Abu'l Kalam Azad suggested that these items be handed over to Netaji's family. However, Prime Minister in a minute recorded on 2.12.1953 stated that the articles could not be sent to the Netaji's family as the family had shown no interest in them and were not prepared to admit that Netaji had died in that accident. PM stated that while there was no question of holding an exhibition of these articles, since they were of historical value, they should be kept carefully. Following these instructions, the Ministry of Education decided that the treasure locked in a box and sealed, would be deposited in the National Museum. This was done on 30th December, 1953. In a note recorded on the taking over, which has been signed by Shri J.K.

Roy, superintendent, National Museum, Shri A.C.Banerji of the National Museum and Shri Devi Dyal, Deputy Secretary(Administration) Ministry of External Affairs, it is stated that the box containin the treasure as per list on the file was opened, contents checked and thereafter re-locked and re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs and handed over along with the key to Shri Roy. Shri Roy has recorded on 2.1.1954 that the treasure has been safely deposited in the National Museum.

17. As regards the sum of Yen 20,000/- which had been handed over to the Embassy of India, Tokyo, by Shri Ram Murthy, this amount was taken into Government account for purposes of transfer to India. This amount, equivalent to Rs.265/- and 10 annas, remained in the Ministry of External Affairs pending a decision on its disposal. On 2.12.54, Prime Minister's Secretariat instructed that this amount be handed over to the INA Relief Fund of the AICC. This was accordingly done on 16.12.1954, against a receipt issued by the AICC. The papers relating to the INA Treasure had been made available to the Netaji Inquiry Committee in 1956. The Report of the Committee indicates that the Committee inspected the valuables at the National Museum twice on the second occasion along with Kundan Singh, Netaji's personal valet, who identified a number of articles as belonging to Netaji. It would appear after the inspection, the box was re-sealed with the NGO seal of the Ministry of External Affairs.

18. The box was opened again on 9.10.78 on Prime Minister's instructions. Additional Secretary, Department of Culture, Director, National Museum, Director General; Archaeological Survey of India, were present at the opening; representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs were also present though

not at the initial opening of the box. Detailed information on the results of examination of the articles would be available with the Department of Culture and Prime Minister's Office. However, the weights of different packages, as now ascertained by museum officials have been give in the table on page 7 . This information was provided by the Prime Minister's office.

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 1978

NETAJI AND THE I.N.A. TREASURE

632. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRAORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Amrit Bazar Patrika' of the 25th October, 1978 regarding Netaji and the I.N.A. treasure;
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there ~~were~~ four suitcases containing the I.N.A. treasure;
- (d) if so, who had brought the treasures and from whom and in how many boxes;
- (e) whether any such box or suitcase is missing;
- (f) what is the name of the person or authority under whose custody these boxes remained for such a long time; and
- (g) whether the matter was placed before the Netaji Enquiry Committee in 1956 and the one-man Commission headed by Justice G. D. Khosla; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) A steel suitcase said to contain the treasure that was salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

was reported to have met his death is in the custody of National Museum. The box, which is placed in a diplomatic bag sealed by the Ministry of External Affairs was entrusted on the 30th December 1953 to the National Museum, New Delhi for safe custody and has remained with them since then.

In order to verify the observations made in Chapter VI of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee's report about the contents of the box, the Prime Minister had directed that the box be opened and the contents evaluated. Accordingly, the box was opened on the 9th October 1978 in the presence of the following officers:

- (1) Shri A.S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Deptt. of Culture.
- (2) Shri M.N. Deshpande, Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.
- (3) Shri C. Sivaramamurti, Former Director, National Museum.
- (4) Dr. P. Banerjee, Assistant Director, National Museum.
- (5) Shri I.D. Mathur, Keeper(L&E), National Museum.
- (6) Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director, National Museum.

Shri K.P. Balakrishnan, Director(Establishment) and Shri Atish Sinha, Under Secretary, of the Ministry of External Affairs, joined later and left before the contents were sealed again.

The box was found to contain seventeen packages, the contents of which were medals, rings, chains, wrist watches, ear-rings, pendants, ear-studs, brooches, bangles, fragments of stones, shirt buttons, Signet rings, nose-ring stones, iron nail and other miscellaneous items almost all of which were in damaged and charred condition. The net weight of the articles, excluding weight of wrappers was found to be 13491.25 grammes.

The contents of the box were placed inside the suitcase and bag, and once again sealed with the seal of the National Museum.

(c) (d) & (f): The treasure was handed over to the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo in September 1951 by some Indians associated with Netaji. Before the treasure was taken over, a list of the contents was made and they were weighed, and a receipt was given. On instructions from the then Prime Minister, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission, kept the treasure for some time. These articles were brought in one box to Delhi by an official of the Government of India and handed over to the then Prime Minister immediately on arrival and retained in Ministry of External Affairs temporarily. The box was entrusted to National Museum on 30th December, 1953 where it has remained since then. Government is not aware of any other box containing the treasure.

(e) Does not arise.

(g) The terms of reference of the Netaji Enquiry Committee and the Justice Khosla Commission were to enquire into the circumstances concerning the disappearance/alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and subsequent developments connected therewith. Though the treasure was not specifically mentioned in the terms of reference, both the Committee and the Commission have touched on this aspect in their Reports.

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Dr. Subramanian Swamy  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(Lok Sabha)



Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ad.  
New Delhi-110001.

Pr. Secy to PM  
11/26/78  
R. 27/12/78  
Date.....

December 20, 1978

Dear Shri Shanker:

Thank you for your letter PMG-23492 dated December 13, 1978 the contents of which verify the factual portions of my press statement about Netaji Missing Treasure.

In view of the PM's reply to HV Kamath's Stared Question No.60, and contents of your letter, I wish to specifically ask the following questions.

1. whether a list of contents was either attached with the box when it arrived, or compiled after Nehru opened it ?
2. In whose official custody was the box before it was delivered one year later to the National Museum?

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

S.S.  
(Subramanian Swamy)

Dr. Subramanian Swamy  
Member of Parliament

Shri V. Shanker  
Prin Secy to the Prime Minister

Office  
1, Safdarjung Road,  
New Delhi.

JAI  
PFS

PP

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28/12

Poll M. Papers have been placed below  
3/1/79  
PSGS

3/1/79

NO. F 2 (64) 78-PM.

JANUARY 9, 1979

Please refer to your letter of December 20.

A list of packages containing the valuables prepared in Tokyo when the treasure was taken over by the Indian Mission was already available with the Ministry of External Affairs. After the arrival of the treasure in India, somewhere around 1.12.1952, the articles were inspected and a list of packages was prepared. The number of packages recorded in the two lists tally.

The box containing the treasure in a sealed bag remained in the official custody of the Ministry of External Affairs till it was delivered to the National Museum on 30th December, 1953.

Yours sincerely,

(V. Shankar)

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy,  
Member of Parliament,  
22, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,  
NEW DELHI-110001.

Swami  
19/1/79

Gowda

D R A F T

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Immediate

Subject: Starred Question Dy. No. 3482 proposed to be asked in the Lok Sabha by Shri Shyam Sunder Gupta for answer on 1-12-1978 regarding news-item regarding jewellery and Gold Bars deposited in Japanese Bank by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Reference Lok Sabha Secretariat u.o. No.SQ.3482/1.12/78-Q

dated 16-11-1978 on the subject cited above which the Ministry of Finance have passed on to this Office with a request to accept its transfer and for furnishing factual information to Lok Sabha Secretariat.

2. We accept transfer of the question which if admitted, may be set down for answer by the prime Minister on a day allotted to him.

3. The Report in the 'blitz' of 21st October does not mention that on 17th August, 1945 Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose left three suitcases filled with jewellery and gold in a Japanese Bank as stated in the question. What the 'blitz' Report says is that Netaji left with three suitcases in a Japanese bomber. The information available with Government about the treasure carried by Netaji is that the treasure said to have been salvaged from the aircraft in which Netaji is reported to have met his death was handed over to the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission in Tokyo in September 1951 by some Indians associated with Netaji. Before the treasure was taken over, a list of the contents was prepared and they were weighed and a receipt was given. On instructions from

Copy of the  
Report  
dated 21  
August 1945  
has been  
placed before  
See Contin  
Page)

(104)

the then prime Minister, the Head of the Indian Liaison Mission kept  
the treasure for some time, These articles were brought in one box to  
Delhi by an official of the Government of India and handed over to the  
prime Minister immediately on arrival and retained in the Ministry of  
External Affairs temporarily. The sealed box was entrusted to the  
National Museum for safe custody on 30th December, 1953 where it has  
remained since then. In the context of observations made in Chapter 1  
of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee Report on this subject, under  
instructions of the prime Minister, this box was opened recently and  
its contents were inspected and an inventory prepared. The box has  
been resealed and kept in the National Museum.

4. Government is not aware of any other box containing Netaji's  
treasure.

5. In the light of the facts stated above, the question of  
conducting an inquiry into the matter does not arise.

6. We would like to point out that most of this information has  
already been given to Lok Sabha in answer to Starred Question No:60  
22-11-1978. As such we feel that there is no need for the matter  
to be raised in the House through yet another question.

7. There is no objection to the information being conveyed to  
the Member who has tabled the Question.

R 29/11/78  
9c PS(S)

Lok Sabha Secretariat (Senior Examiner of Questions)

23/11/78

Jan 1979

25/11